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CM tables resolution against VB-G RAM G Act

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah tabled a resolution in the Assembly that expresses "serious opposition" of the House to the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, and urges the Centre to fully restore the MGNREGA 2005. » PAGE 8

Proceedings washed out

BENGALURU
Proceedings of the Council were disrupted for the entire day on Tuesday, triggered by Congress member Naseer Ahmed's remarks and BJP member C.T. Ravi's subsequent comment. » PAGE 8

IndiGo crisis: KIA saw drop in domestic flyers

BENGALURU
December saw a drop of more than one lakh domestic passengers at Kempegowda International Airport owing to the flight cancellation by IndiGo. » PAGE 2

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U.S. deal will not include sensitive sectors: Goyal

Commerce Minister says the deal will benefit labour-intensive export sectors, blames Opposition for not allowing a statement in Parliament; he says full details will be released after deal is inked

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

> The reciprocal tariff was set by the U.S., and they were the ones who had to reduce tariff, so when they did reduce it to 18%, that news would obviously come from the U.S.
>
> **PIYUSH GOYAL**
> Union Commerce Minister

The trade deal with the United States, announced by U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media late on Monday night, will exclude sensitive agricultural items and dairy, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday, adding that the details would be made public "soon".

Under the deal, the U.S. has agreed to lower its 25% "reciprocal" tariffs on India to 18% and entirely remove the additional "penalty" tariffs of 25% it had imposed on India for its import of Russian oil.

"The trade deal finalised by India with the U.S. is the best among India's neighbours and its competitors," Mr. Goyal told presspersons. "PM Modi has always protected the agriculture and dairy sectors and has never compromised on their interests. In the U.S. trade deal as well, India's sensitive sectors of agriculture and dairy have been excluded," he said.

Beyond this, he did not specify any other details of what India had conceded to the U.S. Nor did he address Mr. Trump's claims that India would stop buying Russian oil, increase oil purchases from Venezuela, and increase overall purchases from the U.S.

Opposition blamed

He attacked the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, the Congress, and its allies, saying it was because of their actions in Parliament on Monday that he was conveying the information on the trade deal at a press conference and not on the floor of the House. "Ordinarily, we would have wanted to speak in Parliament about this," he said.

"But, as you all saw, the way the Opposition, especially the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress and their allies, the DMK, the Trinamool Congress, and the SP, behaved in Parliament, reaching the Speaker's dais and insulting him, we have had to speak before you outside the House."

He said that the deal was in the "final stages of detailing" between the negotiating teams of the two countries. "As soon as the final understanding of the deal is inked, the joint statement is finalised, and technical processes are completed, full details will be shared," he said.

In a rare public admission, Mr. Goyal acknowledged the impact of the U.S. tariffs on several sectors.

"Our farmers and exporters were all affected by the 50% tariffs," he said.

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Industry bodies laud tariff deal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Industry bodies and leaders in both India and the U.S., have welcomed the announcement of a deal between India and the U.S. under which tariffs on India are set to be slashed to 18%.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 15

Equity, rupee markets rise on tariff cut

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Clarity has emerged in India's equity, rupee and precious metal indices after the reciprocal tariff on Indian imports to the U.S. was reduced to 18%.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 15

Khemchand Singh elected Manipur BJP Legislature Party leader, set to be CM

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

BJP leader Tarun Chugh offering sweets to Y. Khemchand Singh after the Manipur Legislature Party meeting on Tuesday. ANI

Yumnam Khemchand Singh, 62, was elected Legislature Party Leader of the BJP in Manipur on Tuesday, paving the way for the restoration of an elected government in the strife-hit State. With the election, Mr. Singh is set to become the Chief Minister of the State.

According to sources, Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki-Zo MLA from Kangpokpi, is likely to be appointed Deputy Chief Minister. She will be the first woman and first Kuki-Zo to hold the post. Another Deputy CM is likely to be from the Naga People's Front, the BJP's alliance partner. The meeting was attended by MLAs from Meitei, Kuki-Zo, and Naga communities.

The Manipur BJP, in a post on X, said, "Heartiest congratulations to Hon'ble Shri @YKhemchandSingh on being elected as the BJP Legislature Party Leader of Manipur. On behalf of BJP Manipur Pradesh, we wish you great success. Your experience, dedication, and leadership will further strengthen the party and serve the aspirations of the people of Manipur."

Mr. Singh posted on X, "I express my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble BJP National President @NitinNabin ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister @narendramodi ji, Hon'ble Union Home Minister @AmitShah ji, & all the respected MLAs of @BJP4Manipur for their trust in me by electing me as the Leader of the BJP Legislature."

Manipur was placed under President's Rule on February 13, 2025, and the Assembly was placed under suspended animation. The tenure of the Assembly ends in February 2027.

'Acceptable choice'

Mr. Singh, MLA from Singjamei, former Speaker of the State Assembly, and a Taekwondo player, is said to be an acceptable choice for the Chief Minister's post among Kuki-Zo MLAs and has the backing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), sources said.

Tarun Chugh, the BJP's central observer for the election of Legislature Party leader, told *The Hindu* that his name was proposed by former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, and on Wednesday, they would meet Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to stake claim to form the government.

On December 8, in a first such attempt, Mr. Singh, who belongs to the majority Meitei community, visited two Kuki-Zo villages in the two Naga-dominated districts of Ukhrul and Kamjong. He also met the Kuki-Zo people living at a nearby relief camp, who were displaced during the May 2023 ethnic violence.

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DISSOLVE HOUSE: CONG. » PAGE 12

Logjam over Rahul's speech leads to LS face-off; eight MPs suspended

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The face-off between the Union government and the Opposition in the Lok Sabha escalated on Tuesday with the suspension of eight Opposition MPs – seven from the Congress and one from the CPI(M) – for the rest of the Budget Session over unruly conduct amid protests over Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi not being allowed to speak on the unpublished memoir of former Army chief General Manoj Naravane (retd).

After the House was adjourned thrice, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, around 3 p.m., moved a resolution seeking suspension of the eight Opposition MPs for showing "disrespect" to the Chair by tearing and throwing paper at it. The resolution was passed by a voice vote. The proceedings were presided over by Dilip Saikia, a BJP MP from Assam.

"The members acted in utter disregard of the House and the authority of the Chair. They tore papers and threw them at the Chair and were named by the Chair for their behaviour," Mr. Rijiju said while moving the resolution.

The suspended MPs are Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C. Kiran Kumar Reddy, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole, and Dean Kuriakose from the Congress and S. Ventakesan from the CPI(M). Led by Mr. Gandhi, the Congress members then protested outside the Parliament building against their suspension.

In the evening, Mr. Gandhi wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, lodging a strong protest against his being disallowed from speaking on a matter of "national security", calling it a "blot on our democracy".

He said as an impartial custodian of the House, it is the Speaker's constitutional and parliamentary responsibility to safeguard the rights of every member, including those of the Opposition.

'Blot on democracy'

"For the first time in Parliamentary history, on the behest of the government, the Speaker has been forced to prevent the Leader of the Opposition from speaking on the President's Address. This is a blot on our democracy, against which I record my strongest protest," Mr. Gandhi said in his letter.

The suspensions could further intensify the logjam between the Treasury benches and the Opposition during the remaining part of the Budget Session, scheduled to end on April 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to reply in the Lok Sabha to the Motion of Thanks to President Droupadi Murmu for her address to a joint sitting of Parliament.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Raising voice: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and others protest at the Parliament complex on Tuesday. PTI

PM is 'compromised', says Rahul after ruckus in LS

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

After not being allowed to speak on the unpublished memoir of former Army chief General Manoj Naravane (retired) in Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "compromised and under enormous pressure". He slammed the India-U.S. deal, saying the Centre "surrendered" the interest of farmers.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

BJP, JD(S) on overnight dharna in Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After Excise Minister R.B. Thimmapur refused to relent to their demand for resignation over corruption charges in liquor licensing and transfer of officials, the Opposition BJP and JD(S) began an all-night protest in the Karnataka Assembly on Tuesday.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok and other BJP leaders alleged irregularities to the tune of ₹6,000 crore, citing allegations made by the Karnataka Wine Merchants' Association and a purported audio conversation between an Excise official and a lawyer. They also cited a statement made by an Excise official before the Lokayukta.

However, Mr. Thimmapur denied the allegations and claimed that he had ensured transparency in the Department. Congress leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, said there was no need for the Minister to resign based on mere allegations.

Unhappy with the Minister's defence, the BJP leaders began an overnight dharna in the Legislative Assembly.

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In the swing of things: Bell spearheads RCB's march to WPL final

The 25-year-old pacer from England has been on target from the very start of the fourth season of the Women's Premier League. Having picked up 12 wickets and bowled 116 dot balls in eight matches, the leader of the Bengaluru outfit's bowling attack reflects on a fabulous campaign ahead of the final on Thursday

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

O, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.

That was how Lauren Bell's sojourn with Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the fourth season of the Women's Premier League began. Entrusted with bowling the opening over of the opening game against Mumbai Indians on January 9, the 25-year-old English pacer appeared to have the brand new ball on a string.

On strike was ace all-rounder Amelia Kerr. The New Zealander is usually quick to impose herself with her attacking strokeplay, but on this occasion, she was made to poke and prod for a whole over, uncertain of where a run was going to come from.

Bell went on to work Kerr over meticulously, and had her reward in the third over of her tone-setting first spell when the batter sliced a desperate hoick to Arundhati Reddy at cover. Kerr's torment was encapsulated by a return of four off 15 deliveries.

Ever since, Bell has rarely deviated from her high standards. Over eight matches in the red-and-black jersey, the six-feet-tall bowler has inexorably homed in on a probing length, forcing top-order batters to feel almost as helpless as Kerr did on that nippy evening.

Bell's exploits – 12 wickets at a parsimonious economy rate of 5.62 – have gone a long way towards ensuring a second final in four years for RCB. In a format where dot balls are worth their weight in gold, she has delivered as many as 116 out of 192 deliveries. That is equivalent to 19.2 overs of dots, the most by anybody in this tournament.

The stranglehold she has had on opponents stems from her ability to examine techniques by pitching the ball up and extracting swing. Bell's outswinger to right-handers is particularly deadly. Interestingly, as RCB's bowling coach Anya Shrubsole observed in a media interaction after the team's last game, the delivery is a fairly recent addition to Bell's artillery. When she made her debut for England across all formats in 2022, the booming inswinger was her stock ball.

Tweak in action

The change came about as a result of Bell remodelling her bowling action at the end of her maiden Ashes series in 2023.

"I sat down with my coach and my bowling coach at the time. And we just chatted about how I could progress as a bowler. Obviously, one of my goals is to be one of the best seamers in the world. Basically, there are three parts of fast-bowling: pace, bounce, and movement. My action then didn't provide the most pace and the most bounce that I could get out of my physicality. So yeah, I just tinkered with my action a bit and tried to get a bit more upright. And in doing so, it led to changing the way I swung the ball," she said during a virtual media interaction on Monday.

Tinkering with the fundamentals of her action as an international cricketer in the public glare couldn't have been easy. It is a testimony to her drive to push on and become a better bowler that she took on the challenge.

"It was definitely tricky. It was a tricky maybe six to nine months of my career, but I had the best support I could have asked for at the time," Bell reflected. "I guess as a young player, I knew that it was for the right reasons and I wanted to push my cricket on. You don't want to stand still in professional sport because people will take over you. At that point, it was a bit challenging. I was doing it on the international stage as well. I was playing for England at a point where I wasn't 100%. I've come out the other side now, and it was all worth it in the end."

Favourite dismissal

Besides conventional swing, Bell can also derive movement off the surface. Cast your mind back to the game against Delhi Capitals at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on January 17, when she castled Laura Wolvaardt with a peach. The South African batter was shaping up to drive in anticipation of the ball swinging away, but once the white Kookaburra landed on the deck, it seamed in just a fraction and breached the wide gap between bat and pad to clatter the stumps.

Of the 12 wickets in Bell's locker in this campaign, she savours this more than any other. It merits a place in the highlights reels of the competition.

"The ball that got Wolvaardt," Bell beamed when asked about her favourite dismissal of the season. "I guess we chatted about the fact that the ball coming back into her is probably her only area of weakness. I got a bit of assistance off the pitch and got it to go back in. So that was a plan that we chatted about pre-game and we managed to execute it out there."

With Bell proving to be such a force with the new ball, RCB has invariably used up three of her overs in the PowerPlay. When it comes to bringing her back for her fourth and final over, the scenario of the game has tended to dictate skipper Smriti Mandhana's decision.

"When I came out here, I don't think we planned that I was always going to bowl three in the PowerPlay. But it's been going really well. If you can get on top of teams earlier, it sets you up for the innings really well. So, yeah, we've been trying to take wickets in the PowerPlay and really get on top of teams," Bell elaborated. "And then, I've always got one left. It's normally when we need to break a partnership. Smriti will turn to me and I know my role is to come on and try and take a wicket."

Synergy with Smriti

In any well-functioning outfit, certainly, the symbiosis between the captain and the spearhead of the bowling unit is absolutely essential. In this case, Bell's familiarity with Smriti much before their association in the WPL has helped. They were teammates for Southern Brave in The Hundred.

"We knew each other really well before I came here because I've obviously played with her. That was more on a personal level and as a friend," said the youngster from Swindon in southwest England. "And then out here, I've obviously got to know her as a captain. She's been so clear and really backed me, giving me lots of confidence. So yes, we work really well together. Coming here, knowing that I knew my captain obviously settled a few nerves. We've got on and we tend to agree on all plans and everything she wants from me. It's been pretty seamless."

While Bell's stint with RCB has indeed been seamless, it does beg the question of why she was not utilised at all by UP Warriorz. She was part of the northern franchise in 2023, but didn't play a single game.

Puzzling as that seems with the benefit of hindsight, Bell ensured she absorbed valuable lessons from the experience.

"Coming here to India and bowling on these pitches, I trained out here whilst I was with Warriorz. And just experiencing the WPL puts you in a good position," Bell stated. "Coming back, you kind of know what to expect and what it might be like. I was buzzing to just be there and be part of the squad and experience it all. And I knew that I was going to, once I got home, keep training and hopefully get to a place where I can get picked and have an impact for a team."

When the opportunity to pick Bell in the auction ahead of the 2026 edition sprung up, RCB seized it without a moment's hesitation. The coaching staff of the Bengaluru side, of which Shrubsole is now an integral member, was thoroughly convinced about the England pacer's credentials.

"Looking at the make-up of the Warriorz side, they obviously decided not to go for her. But we were clear coming into this competition that we really wanted an opening bowler who is strong in the PowerPlay," Shrubsole informed.

"She was the one we ideally wanted. It was always going to go down to auction order and things like that. So luckily, her name came up first and we were able to get her. She's kind of shown why we were so keen to have her here."

Yes, of course, she has.

THE GIST

- When the opportunity to pick Bell in the auction ahead of the 2026 edition sprung up, RCB seized it without a moment's hesitation. The coaching staff of the Bengaluru side was thoroughly convinced about the pacer's credentials
- While the England speedster's stint with RCB has indeed been seamless, it does beg the question of why she was not utilised at all by UP Warriorz. She was part of the northern franchise in 2023, but didn't play a single game
- With Bell proving to be such a force with the new ball, RCB has invariably used up three of her overs in the PowerPlay. When it comes to bringing her back for her fourth and final over, the scenario of the game has tended to dictate skipper Smriti's decision

IndiGo crisis: Drop in KIA's domestic passenger numbers in December 2025

It handled 31,33,697 passengers in December, compared to 32,79,765 in November 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IndiGo's flight services across India, including in Bengaluru, were disrupted for many days in December 2025 owing to overstretching of its flight crew. FILE PHOTO

December, which is a peak season for travel, especially among domestic commuters, saw a drop of more than one lakh domestic passengers at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) compared to the previous month (November 2025) owing to the large-scale flight cancellation by IndiGo.

IndiGo's flight services across India and Bengaluru were disrupted for many days in December 2025 owing to overstretching of its flight crew. Several domestic flights were also cancelled.

Due to this, KIA handled 31,33,697 passengers in December 2025 compared to 32,79,765 passengers in November 2025, according to data from Airports Authority of India (AAI). The airport handled 1,46,068 less domestic passengers.

According to AAI data in December 2024, KIA handled 31,60,515 domestic passengers. The difference in passenger numbers between December 2025 and 2024 was -0.8%.

The number of aircraft movements (domestic) in December 2025 was 19,202, as against 20,041 in November 2025. The airport handled 839 fewer flights. In December 2024, the domestic aircraft movement stood at 19,890, and the difference in aircraft movement numbers between December 2025 and 2024 was -3.5%.

During the IndiGo crisis, more than 100 flights were cancelled across several days in the Bengaluru sector while more than 150 flights were cancelled on other days. December 6 saw the highest number of cancellations at 175.

According to AAI data during 2025, the airport handled the highest number of domestic passengers in November (32,79,765) with 20,041 flights.

It handled the least number of passengers in February (28,09,028) with 17,224 flights.

15-year licence

Menzies Aviation has been awarded a 15-year licence to provide ground handling services at KIA. The licence is effective from April 1, 2026, with operations expected to commence immediately upon securing required regulatory approvals.

Under the new licence, the company will provide a full suite of ground handling services across Terminals 1 and 2, including passenger, ramp, and baggage operations, enabling airline customers to benefit from integrated ground and cargo services at the airport. Menzies will launch a local recruitment programme, with approximately 1,000 new employees expected to join the business during the first three years, expanding its existing 1,700-strong cargo team.

Menzies will also invest more than $9.2 million to modernise and standardise its ground support equipment (GSE) at the airport.

Leopard spotted in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A leopard was spotted at Anjanapura in Bengaluru on Monday night. The movement of the leopard walking around 7th cross of Anjanpura was captured by CCTV at around 2 a.m.

Forest Department officials confirmed that the leopard was spotted in the locality and said that it could have come from the forest area around Roerich Estate. Officials said that a team was deployed soon after receiving information about the leopard's movement from residents.

However, the leopard could not be traced and officials said it most likely has gone back from where it came. "The spot where the leopard movement was seen is a residential area that is sparsely populated. There are only a few houses with many vacant plots and there are many bushes. The leopard may have come here to take cover in the bushes," said an official.

The official added that a cage may be placed if the leopard is spotted again in the vicinity. "We conducted a thorough search in the area, the leopard has most likely gone back to the forest area," the official added. The CCTV footage was widely circulated on WhatsApp groups asking residents to remain cautious and vigilant.

Domestic workers' union urges Supreme Court to reconsider minimum wages petition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Domestic workers called for a full and proper hearing and inclusive dialogue. FILE PHOTO

In the context of the Supreme Court dismissing a writ petition seeking minimum wages and welfare measures for domestic workers, the Domestic Workers' Rights' Union (DWRU) has urged the apex court to reconsider the decision and reopen the case.

In a press meet in Bengaluru, the domestic workers called for a full and proper hearing and inclusive dialogue.

"By dismissing a collective petition brought by women domestic workers, the court has set aside decades of organising and struggle without adequate engagement with the evidence on record, or the constitutional implications of excluding domestic workers from enforceable labour protections," said an open letter from the union.

"As women trade union leaders and workers, we feel deeply affronted that our claims - grounded in equality, dignity, non-discrimination, and freedom from exploitation - were not examined through a substantive constitutional lens, but instead filtered through prevailing social assumptions that prioritise patriarchal values, and family and domestic security, and place employers' convenience above workers' rights even while speculating that recognising minimum wages may reduce jobs or lead to litigation," it further stated.

On January 29, while hearing the plea, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant held the trade unions responsible for 'stopping the industrialisation growth in the country'.

While taking up the petition, which also sought to ensure minimum wages for domestic workers, he remarked that 'every household will be in litigation'.

"The fact that such statements are coming from those who are responsible for safeguarding the constitutional rights of people is deeply hurting and humiliating," said Geeta Menon, general secretary, DWRU, Karnataka. She pointed out that the petition sought only the minimum wages, and not even living wages.

Sangeeta, a domestic worker from Bengaluru, said that the PIL was filed on behalf of several lakhs of domestic workers who have been facing multiple issues over the years.

"We demand a process that engages domestic workers as citizens and rights-bearers. Despite limited resources, the trade unions will continue to organise, resist, and fight until justice is won," the union said.

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगॉव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated
Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK – 6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1853 **Date: 21/01/2026**

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (26) companies in the state of Karnataka under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC0909801	U40105KA2010PTC053910	SOLAR FIELDS ENERGY PHOTO VOLTAIC INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC0957177	U40106KA2016PTC098716	TERRAL ENERGY PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC1117917	U46101KA2023PTC175956	SAAPHALAYA FARMS PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC1204963	U72200KA2022PTC158079	FUTU GLOBAL READY PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC1358286	U93190KA2024OPC183718	GOENDURE ENSPIRING ACTIVITY (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC1074035	U74999KA1994PTC015877	GAINWELL MEDIMART PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AB9840120	U74110KA2015FTC083025	FASTFILMZ MEDIA INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC1303850	U72900KA2021PTC145416	AITAREYA SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC1374232	U72900KA2021OPC147721	SRIRAM NARAYAN CONSULTING (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC0633635	U72900KA2019PTC124835	AAROGYAAI INNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC0234608	U72200KA2015PTC080216	PATNART SYSTEM LEARNING TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AB9724457	U17124KA2012FTC065765	SCANTEX (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AB9848455	U72200KA2014PTC074577	KAHO LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC0388403	U72200KA2013PTC070946	MOOL TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC1262958	U70200KA2025PTC203565	GROUNDWORK STUDIO PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AB9460925	U63999KA2023PTC172698	KAGDA E TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AB9940547	U62099KA2025PTC204790	NEOCIM SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC1013724	U62099KA2023OPC182947	TITRON WINGS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC0472138	U62020KA2025PTC203137	XERISE TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AB9814287	U24304KA2019PTC130137	AGASTYA MAHARISHI AYURVEDAM PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC0471288	U52219KA2025PTC206658	EVERYNEED LOGISTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC1177746	U52200KA2022OPC168882	NAMMA CHOICE (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC0331210	U51103KA2015PTC082219	BWB ONLINE PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC1317247	U47912KA2025PTC204916	NIRRAH COOLECTIVE PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AC0977618	U28299KA2025PTC200386	GINSAN INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AC1083976	U28229KA2025PTC199136	SWT LASERTECH PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceeding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send is or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0636/2526

Can Fin Homes Ltd
(Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
HOME LOANS @ 8.35%*

Can Fin Homes Ltd
Near Ananaya School Driving School
First Floor Rangappa Circle, Doddaballapur,
Bangalore Rural - 561 203.
Phone : 080-29562115/7625079229
e-mail Id:doddaballapur@canfinhomes.com
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

Doddaballapur Branch

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)]

(For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **01.12.2025** calling upon the borrowers **Mr.Achyutha Reddy S/o Venkataravanappa and Mrs.Sowmya. R W/o Achyutha Reddy and Guarantor Mr. Lokesh V S/o Venkataravanappa** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.19,52,735/-** (Amount Nineteen Lakh fifty two thousand Seven hundred Thirty-five only) with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 (of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) on this the **03rd day of February of the year 2026.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Can Fin Homes Ltd for an amount of **Rs.19,52,735/-** (Amount Nineteen Lakh fifty two thousand Seven hundred Thirty-five only) and interest thereon.

Description of immovable property

All that Piece and Parcel of Immovable Residential property bearingSite No.27, Assessment No.28/4/27, Katha No.28/4/27 Situated at Shanubhoganahalli village, Hessarghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk Bangalore urban District measuring East to West 41.5 ft & North to south 26.51 ft totally 1100 sq ft. Same is bounded as under: To the East:Road, To the West: Site No.28 and 29, To the North: Site No.27A, To the South:Road.

Date: 03.02.2026
Place : Doddaballapur

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I AT BANGALORE

O.A. No. 559 / 2023

Between :
Punjab National Bank
A body Corporate constituted under The Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertaking) No. 40 of 1970, Having its Corporate Office at Plot No. 4, Sector-10, Dwaraka, Newdelhi - 110075.
And Carrying business through its branches at various place including Circle SASTRA Bangalore, Raheja Towers, First Floor, 26-27, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560001. PAN No. AAACP0165G, RTGS Inward A/c No. 1486103171160, IFSC No. PUNB0148610.
Represented by its Chief Manager Sri. Chandrajeet Kumar, Aged about 41 years, Mob.: 9962022231, E-Mail : cs8191@pnb.co.in.
Punjab National Bank ... Applicant
And :
M/s. Azad Painting Work ... Defendant

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993.

To :
1. M/s. Azad Painting Work, Prop. : Sri. Mohammad Azad Raja,
Aged about 56 years, **Son of Sri. Mohammad Usman.**
No. 1, 1st Floor, Jennie Cottage, Old Sawmil Road, Belathur Colony, Kadugodi, Bangalore - 560067. PAN No. ABZPU2471K, Mob.: 8088025903.

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and recovery of sum of **Rs. 25,47,834.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Fourty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Four only)** together with Current and For other reliefs. The above mentioned defendant is therefore Hereby directed to appear before the tribunal in person of through an Advocate or duly authorized Agent, in support of the defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on the Day of **16-07-2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why relief prayed for should not be granted. Take Notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the **16th day of December, 2025.**

Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal - 1
BANGALORE - 560001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.Nagarathnamma W/o. Hanumantharayappa G** to bring the notice of the general public that Original Sale deed doc. No. 760/1972-73 of Book-I, Volume-2359, dated. 17.04.1972/ 31.05.1972, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Gandhinagar, Bangalore, executed by City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) in favour of **Sri.Chikka Thimmaiah S/o Mote Gowda,** and Original Will doc. No.169/2001-02 of Book-III, Volume-207, Pages 29 to 35 dated.12.09.2001, executed by **Sri.Chikka Thimmaiah S/o Mote Gowda** in favour of their daughters **1.Smt. Jayamma, 2.Smt. Venkatalakshmamma, 3. Smt. Sarojamma & 4.Smt. Nagarathnamma,** registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Gandhinagar, Bangalore are missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **site No.114** and Home No.61, presently BBMP E-Property No.61, **EPID No.2738295151,** consist of two floor building thereon; situated at **12th Cross Road, Vayali Kawal,** now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to west **20 feet** and North to South **35 feet,** in all measuring **700 Sq.feet,** and land bounded as:-

East by : Site No.115,
West by : Site No.113,
North by : TV Land,
South by : Road.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL,BENGALURU (DRT-2)
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC No. 68/2025 in O.A. No. 2096/2020
KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK
V/S. SRI SHASHI KUMAR K.

In the matter of **(CH) Karnataka Gramin Bank,** Dalasanur Branch, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar Distirct, Karnataka. **... Certificate Holder**

Versus

(CD): Sri Shashi Kumar K., S/o. Sri Krishnappa, R/at No.64, Near Shiva Temple, Kuppahally, Dalasanur Post, Kolar District- 563 126, Karnataka. **....Certificate Debtor**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-2)** in **OA/2096/2020** an amount of **Rs.21,89,409/-** (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred And Nine Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 14% simple interest yearly w.e.f. 21.12.2020 till realization and cost of **Rs.24,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Four Thousand Only) has become due full from the Certificate Debtors. **2)** You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3)** You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4)** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings.**5)** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay:(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings.(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **28.03.2025.**

Sd/- Recover Officer ,
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT-2)

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961 read with RDDBFI Act 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representatives or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, not shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other moneys contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

इसरो ISRO

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO),
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION,
80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru. Ph No: 080-25037203/080-25037214.

Date: 02.02.2026

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Revamping of AC system at old EBW facility, LPSC(B)Campus, Bengaluru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2037/AC/MI/031/ 2025-26 DATED: 02.02.2026	₹ 19.23 Lakhs	₹ 38,460/-	02 Months
2	Extension of existing forging shed for Gaganyaan Raw Material Store at LPSC(B)Campus, Bengaluru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2038/C/MI/032/ 2025-26 DATED: 02.02.2026	₹ 19.48 Lakhs	₹ 38,960/-	02 Months
3	Site development works over DG system location area at LPSC(B)Campus, Tumakuru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2035/C/Re-tender/ MI/033/2025-26 DATED: 02.02.2026	₹ 14.77 Lakhs	₹ 29,540/-	45 days
4	Providing Name boards/display boards/ signboards for various facilities at LPSC Campus, Bengaluru/Tumakuru NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/03/3018/C/MI/035/ 2025-26 DATED: 02.02.2026	₹ 6.14 Lakhs	₹ 12,280/-	12 months

Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From: **18:30 Hrs on 03.02.2026 to to 13.02.2026 till 23:59 Hrs**
Bid clarifications	From: **20.00 Hrs on 03.02.2026 to 16.02.2026 till 10:00 Hrs**
Last date and time to Reply to Bid clarification	**17.02.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**18.02.2026 up to 11:00 Hrs**
Due date & time of opening of tenders	**18.02.2026 up to 11:30 Hrs**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.inn**

Sd/- Head CMD , LPSC (B)

Indian scientists make affordable dipstick test to track AMR in sewage

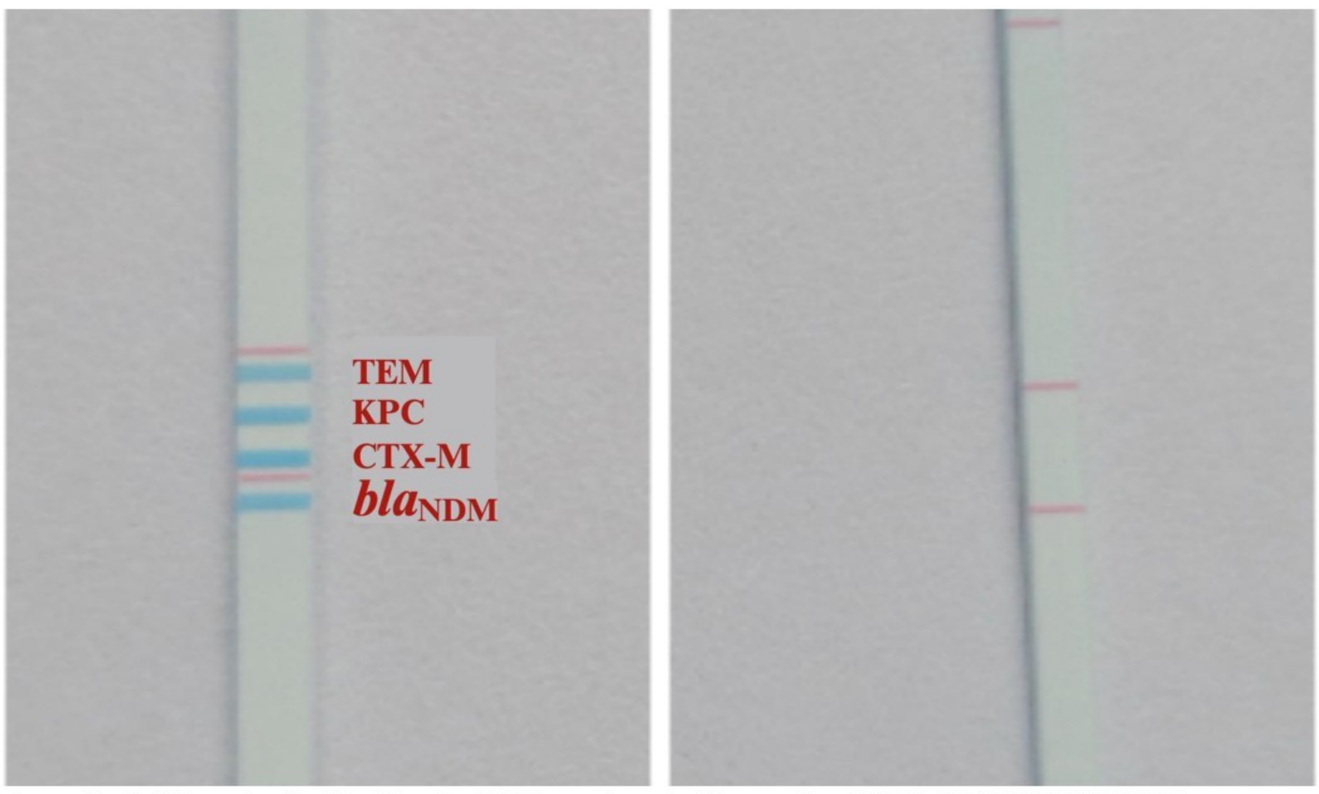
Sewage sampling is an ethically acceptable and economically feasible approach to check for AMR in a population; likewise, for a nation as populous and vast as India, affordable testing technology is critical to curb the spread of AMR; a key feature of the new assay is its affordability, with a unit cost of ₹400-550

Edries Yousaf Hajam

Scientists from the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad, have developed an affordable way to check for antimicrobial resistance in sewage.

In their study, detailed in a paper published in *Nature Communications* on December 29, the scientists analysed sewage samples from 381 sites in Assam, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal, looking for antibiotic residues, microbial diversity, and resistance genes.

Urban sewage in India is known to be a hotspot and reservoir for antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which the team was able to confirm. But equally importantly, the findings validated the scientific test, or assay, the team developed for the purpose, which the team said was affordable without sacrificing efficiency, and thus a solution suitable for use in low- and middle-income countries.



An image of the dipstick assay in action. The stick on the right is the negative control, for comparison. PAUL ET AL., 2025 (NATURE COMMUNICATIONS)

'See with your naked eye'

"The workflow to perform the dipstick assay is straightforward," Deepjyoti Paul, a research scientist at THSTI and the study's first author, said.

The approach is similar to a rapid diagnostic test, in this case to detect the resistance genes, i.e. those that confer microbes with the ability to resist certain drugs, in environmental sources. Scientists first collect sewage samples and process them to isolate the genetic material, then they amplify the quantities of those genes, for example using the PCR method, so that they are easier to detect.

Then, the amplified genetic material and a detection reagent are added to a dipstick. If the AMR genes are present in the sample, they will bind to the dipstick and produce a band of a visible colour, and thus a clear visual readout.

"The beauty of the dipstick assay is that you can see bands with your naked eye and understand if the sample has a resistance gene or not," Dr. Paul said.

Snapshot of antibiotic use

Antibiotics that once worked may become ineffective in treating infections as bacteria develop defenses against one or multiple types of the drugs. As a result, treating resistant pathogens becomes more difficult, reducing the number of treatment options available. AMR pathogens can cause life-threatening infections and create complications following surgery and organ transplantation.

Sewage is a complex environment that offers a snapshot of antibiotic usage and provides an early warning system for resistance development. Samples from sewage can capture upstream signals from communities, hospitals, animal farms, and industries. If certain antibiotics or resistance genes are prevalent at a particular location, it can be a sign that medical intervention may be required at the sources upstream. In fact, sewage sampling is considered an ethically acceptable and economically feasible approach to check for AMR in a population.

Likewise, for a nation as populous and geographically vast as India, affordable, time-efficient, and scalable testing technology is critical to curb the spread of AMR. A key feature of the dipstick assay is its affordability, with a unit cost of just around ₹400-550 – far lower than alternatives like shotgun sequencing, whose cost can exceed ₹9,000.

Each dipstick can also recognise 16 different resistance genes from a given sample and deliver results within two hours. In case new resistance genes are discovered anywhere in the world, researchers can also upgrade the dipstick in just three days.

"The dipstick based assay that we developed can easily be adopted in very minimal-resource settings," THSTI professor and the study's corresponding author Bhabatosh Das said.

Where there is smoke

While techniques like shotgun sequencing can provide a comprehensive picture of resistance genes, they are not feasible to use for routine testing and surveillance.

According to the authors, the dipstick assay can fill this gap by performing rapid large-scale surveillance to potentially flag a location in the sewage system for deeper investigation and intervention, by researchers, healthcare workers, and the government.

> The beauty of the dipstick assay is that you can see bands with your naked eye and understand if the sample has a resistance gene or not.
>
> **DEEPJYOTI PAUL**
> Research scientist at THSTI

The approach also builds on an earlier proof of concept developed in 2017 by researchers in Japan, to detect carbapenemase genes in stool specimens. Dr. Das's lab adapted the dipstick assay approach for other applications, including to detect microbiota associated with preterm births and to identify and differentiate SARS-CoV-2 variants.

But while the dipstick assay offers rapid insights, experts urged careful interpretation of its results at this stage.

"A gene doesn't make you unwell," David Graham, an antimicrobial resistance expert and retired professor at Durham University who now advises the United Nations, said. "A gene just tells you the possibility of an organism being there that might make you unwell." As he put it: "Genes are like smoke: where there is smoke, there is often fire."

Because resistance to antibiotics can be a result of different genes or even sets of genes in different countries, he emphasised the need for a deeper understanding of the context.

Cheaper, faster, scalable

Culturing resistant pathogens and studying them at genomic, transcriptomic, and metagenomic levels could eventually develop a comprehensive understanding of the genetics of resistance. That information would provide crucial context to help researchers select genetic signatures that reliably indicate resistant pathogens.

"Our goal is to ultimately be able to track pathogens using genetics," Dr. Graham said, "because it is cheaper, faster and can be done at mass scales".

Thus, the dipstick assay can be useful in local settings where the context and circumstances of resistance are exceptionally well understood.

"Finding a gene is probably two or three biological steps away from finding something that is resistant, [such as] a viable organism or in worst case a viable pathogen," he added.

For now, the dipstick assay is best positioned as an early warning tool for AMR risk in and around Indian cities. Sewage-based surveillance using dipsticks could help identify localities in which wastewater treatment is inadequate or where antibiotic use might be high, allowing public health authorities to intervene upstream.

The approach could also help assess whether pharmaceutical effluent treatment plants actually reduce the spread of resistance.

Such utilities offer a crucial advantage in monitoring public health threats in a country which has become a global hotspot for AMR.

(Edries Yousaf Hajam is a freelance science journalist. edriss.yousuf@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- In India, which has become a global hotspot for AMR, the dipstick assay can help perform rapid large-scale surveillance to identify localities in which wastewater treatment is inadequate or where antibiotic use might be high
- A key feature of the dipstick assay is its affordability, with a unit cost of just around ₹400-550 — far lower than alternatives like shotgun sequencing, whose cost can exceed ₹9,000
- Each dipstick can also recognise 16 different resistance genes from a given sample and deliver results within two hours

BIG SHOT

A drone view shows trees burnt by wildfires in Chubut, Argentina on January 29. The fires have destroyed an area more than twice the size of Buenos Aires and stirred criticism over austerity measures under President Javier Milei that have significantly cut aid resources. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Bending the arc

Q: What is suborbital tourism?

A: On January 31, Blue Origin, the private space company owned by Jeff Bezos, announced that it was suspending its New Shepard suborbital space tourism programme for at least two years to focus on its "lunar capabilities" instead.

Suborbital tourism is a form of space travel where paying passengers fly to the edge of space but do not complete a full orbit around the earth. These flights typically reach an altitude of around 100km — a boundary known as the Kármán line and the region beyond which is considered to be space.

Unlike orbital missions, such as those going to the International Space Station, suborbital vehicles don't achieve the immense speed necessary to stay in orbit. Instead they follow a parabolic flight path, similar to the trajectory of a ball thrown forward.

The experience usually lasts between 10 and 15 minutes. Around the peak of the flight arc, the vehicle's engines shut down and passengers experience several minutes of weightlessness, allowing them to float within the cabin and view the earth's curvature against the darkness of space through large windows. Because the craft is not travelling fast enough to remain in orbit, gravity eventually pulls it back down through the atmosphere.

The world's first unpiloted suborbital flight being launched from Blue Origin's Launch Site 1 in Texas, U.S. on July 20, 2021. REUTERS

Companies like Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic have been the primary providers of these experiences. These flights require significantly less energy and less complex heat shielding, making them a more accessible entry point for private individuals who want to experience spaceflight.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

2 constables suspended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two constables attached to the K.P. Agrahara police station have been suspended for alleged negligence while discharging official duties, police said on Tuesday. The constables were assigned the task of serving summons on persons connected to a cheque bounce case. However, they allegedly failed to carry out the duty.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 04		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:22
RISE	20:40	SET 08:25
THURSDAY, FEB. 05		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:22
RISE	21:29	SET 09:03
FRIDAY, FEB. 06		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:22
RISE	22:17	SET 09:40

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	32	18
Bengaluru	29	17

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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ORR facelift may be a year-long traffic nightmare

B-SMILE has planned to set an 11-month deadline for concessionaires to complete the ₹450-crore 'international standard' facelift project

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Commuters taking the Outer Ring Road (ORR) will have to brace for nearly a year of traffic congestion and dust, as B-SMILE has planned to set an 11-month deadline for concessionaires to complete the ₹450-crore "international standards" facelift project.

Workers constructing a bus shelter along the Outer Ring Road near Hebbal in Bengaluru on Tuesday.
ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Tenders to be floated

BSMILE, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), will float tenders in two packages: the Silk Board-Iblur Junction stretch, estimated at ₹143 crore, and the Iblur Junction-K.R. Puram stretch at ₹307 crore.

The SPV plans to begin work in the first week of April . Initially, the plan was to start work in January and complete it by November, coinciding with the opening of the Blue Line Metro. However, delays in Cabinet clearance forced a change in the timeline. The project aims to revamp the 17.1-km stretch with high-quality roads, international-standard footpaths and cycle lanes, and a well-planned bus priority lane.

B.S. Prahallad, Technical Director of B-SMILE, told *The Hindu* that an 11-month completion period was a reasonable timeframe for a project of this scale. "The concessionaire has to take maintenance liability for 10 years, which means the quality of work must be top class. Therefore, we are extending a healthy time period to complete it," he said.

The work will be carried out with partial road closures. This is where the traffic police will struggle. The IT corridor is designed to handle 4,800 to 5,000 Passenger Car Units (PCU), but it currently carries around 9,000 to 10,000 PCU. With no alternative roads to distribute the excess load, the stretch already experiences prolonged congestion.

Partial closures

Partial closures for the project will further reduce road capacity, while vehicle volumes remain unchanged. This is likely to double travel time from current levels, according to a senior traffic police officer.

"Even if work is taken up in select patches, it will create bottlenecks and elongate the length of congestion. If partial closure is implemented, the result will be the same, as the reduced road width will bring down the overall capacity," the officer said.

These issues are expected to be particularly severe at junctions such as Kadubeesanahalli and Marathahalli, and Iblur where traffic from Sarjapur Road converges. Congestion is also likely to intensify at U-turns, which see heavy usage.

With no scope for traffic diversion, the police are left with only one option: reducing the number of vehicles on the road. This, they said, could happen only if companies allowed their employees to work-from-home, introduced staggered work hours, or adopted a hybrid model.

To discuss these measures, the police have planned to convene a meeting with tech companies located along the corridor. "Earlier, we used to engage with one umbrella body representing all companies, but that is unlikely to work now. So this time, we will call one representative from each company," the officer told *The Hindu*.

R.K. Misra, Independent Director of B-SMILE, defended the project as not merely a road project, but a comprehensive infrastructure upgrade.

"We are developing wider footpaths to high standards, scientifically planned bus stops, and, more importantly, bus priority lanes. Once the metro becomes operational, these walkways will complement it by offering seamless connectivity. Through this facelift, we are not encouraging car usage, but incentivising and influencing commuters to shift to public transport," Mr. Misra said.

The BMRCL estimates that around 1.5 lakh commuters may use the Namma Metro along this stretch. With the introduction of bus priority lanes, a few thousand more could shift to buses, provided the BMTC expands its fleet.

Officials told to prepare blueprint for additional flyover near Iblur Junction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), instructed officials to prepare a blueprint for the construction of an additional flyover near Iblur Junction on the Outer Ring Road. He said that constructing an additional flyover at the junction would significantly reduce traffic congestion.

An approximately 800-metre-long flyover is required at the Iblur Junction, Mr. Rao said. "In coordination with the South City Corporation and BMRCL, steps should be taken for the comprehensive development of the Silk Board Junction, implementation of precautionary measures to prevent flooding, and other related works," he said.

The Chief Commissioner said that roads beneath metro stations along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) are uneven and that, due to pile cap works, road width is gradually reducing, which could lead to increased congestion.

He instructed officials to inspect all the metro stations along the ORR and immediately rectify any issues found.

Woman robbed of gold chain at knifepoint

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 54-year-old woman, who was on her evening walk, was allegedly robbed of her gold chain after being threatened at knife-point near Machohalli forest on Monday.

According to the police, the victim, Nirmala, a resident of Machohalli, was out for her routine evening walk at a park near the forest around 4.30 p.m. At 5 p.m., the accused confronted her, threatened her with a knife and punched her in the face, causing her to fall to the ground.

The accused then snatched a 32-gm gold chain she was wearing and fled the spot. The gold chain was valued at approximately ₹3.5 lakh, the FIR stated. She cried for help but there was no one around and the accused managed to escape.

After the incident, she informed her husband, following which the couple approached the Madanayakanahalli police station and lodged a complaint.

A case has been registered, and further investigation is under way, the police said.

THE HINDU GROUP

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of Moroccans evacuated due to severe weather

50 In thousand. More than 50,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in northern Morocco due to severe weather and heavy rainfall affecting several provinces, the interior ministry said. The evacuations began on Friday, mostly in the Larache province. AFP

Number of Indian visitors hosted by Singapore in 2025

1.2 In million. Singapore hosted more than 1.2 million visitors from India in 2025, a 1% increase from the previous year, according to Singapore Tourism Board (STB) data. Overall International Visitor Arrivals (IVA) reached 16.9 million in 2025, representing 2.3% growth compared to 2024. PTI

Number of foreign visitors hosted by Spain last year

96.8 In million. Spain has set a new tourism record, welcoming nearly 96.8 million foreign visitors in 2025, according to figures released by the National Statistics Institute. The number of visitors saw an increase of 3.2%, compared to 2024, which saw 94 million tourists. AP

Amount Rajasthan collected as fines in 3 years for polluting

16.56 In ₹ crore. The Rajasthan government informed the Assembly that over 5.99 lakh challans were issued, and more than ₹16.56 crore was collected as fines against polluting activities in the State over three years. This was given in a written reply. PTI

The size of Bihar government's Budget for 2026-27

3.47 lakh crore. The Nitish Kumar government presented a ₹3.47 lakh crore Budget, asserting that the State was making progress at a rapid pace and that the estimated growth rate for the current fiscal was an impressive 14.9%. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How did the space sector fare in the Budget?

While budget numbers for the space sector suggest that the state-led programme is stabilising, the Finance Ministry has overlooked the structural reforms that industry bodies like the SatCom Industry Association-India and the Indian Space Association have demanded

ECONOMIC NOTES

Vasudevan Mukunth

The Indian space program has moved out of its post-pandemic slump and is entering a phase of sustained, if also cautious, consolidation. Since 2012-2013, the national space budget has grown by 182%. While this sounds massive, most of the growth actually happened in the last decade, especially between 2014 and 2019. Allocations have increased more slowly in the last five years. In fact, for a while, the 2019-2020 expenditure of ₹13,017 crore was like a high ceiling that the Department of Space struggled to exceed in actual spending terms, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic and delays due to missions being rescheduled.

The 2026-2027 budget estimate is now 5.3% higher than the pre-pandemic peak, indicating that the 'lost years' of the pandemic are officially over, with the Department finally planning for a scale of operations that actually exceeds its previous historical maximum. In fact, if the expectation for NewSpace India, Ltd. (NSIL) to generate ₹1,403 crore from its own internal resources is included, the expenditure on the total space ecosystem is currently around ₹15,000 crore.

Structural reforms

The fiscal roadmap, however, also reveals a disconnect between the government's rhetoric on privatisation and financial reality. The budget numbers suggest that the state-led programme is stabilising, but by focusing almost exclusively on direct budgetary support to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and administrative costs for IN-SPACe, the Finance Ministry has overlooked the structural reforms that industry bodies like the SatCom Industry Association-India (SIA-India) and the Indian Space Association (ISpA) have demanded.

Leading up to the Budget, these industry associations had coalesced around a specific set of demands designed to make Indian space manufacturing globally competitive. As articulated in pre-budget memoranda submitted by SIA-India and ISpA to the Ministry, the sector desperately needs a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for space-grade components, echoing the success seen in the mobile manufacturing sector. They further recommended rationalising GST rates for satellite launches to lower entry barriers.

However, the 2026-2027 Union Budget is silent on these fronts. There is no PLI scheme to subsidise the high cost of domestic manufacturing nor a dedicated 'space fund' beyond the administrative allocation to IN-SPACe, the nodal supervisor and promoter of non-governmental entities in the space programme. Instead the government has effectively continued its role as a provider of funds to its own agency, ISRO, rather than evolving into the sort of facilitator industry representatives have been asking for. "Given that ISRO is taking a stand that IN-SPACe is the promoting agency, [the latter] should have been allocated at least ₹1,000 crore or so to run its own schemes to support the industry," Narayan Prasad, co-founder of satsearch, the largest supply chain discovery platform in the space industry, told *The Hindu*. "The funding for IN-SPACe [would mostly have been] to create demand for high tech platforms like new generation microsatellite bus, and novel payloads and subsystems that can have significant service implications."

Private constraints: The PSLV-C62 rocket, carrying an earth observation satellite along with 14 other co-passenger satellites to orbit, is seen at the launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on January 11. PTI

'Death valley'

Both ISpA and SIA-India have argued that the current GST regime creates a cash-flow problem: space companies pay significant taxes on high-tech imports and raw materials but because their final product is often exempt, they can't claim refunds on these inputs. The result is a hidden 18% tax on manufacturing, which makes 'Made in India' space hardware more expensive than components from jurisdictions with integrated VAT/GST refunds. Both associations have instead demanded a "zero-rated" GST regime, similar to exports, to allow companies to claim full refunds on input taxes and thus free up liquidity.

Perhaps the most significant missed opportunity was the refusal to classify the space sector as 'critical infrastructure'. In its pre-budget submission, ISpA had argued that this classification is essential to access long-term low-cost lending from institutional banks. They estimated that such a status, which would cover ground stations, launch pads, and telemetry networks, would reduce the cost of capital by 2-3% – a difference that could decide if a project is viable in a capital-intensive industry with gestation periods of half a decade or more.

The global space economy is currently transitioning to a high-volume commercial model with smaller margins. India currently holds around 3% of the global space market and the government has resolved to reach 10% by 2030. Without 'critical infrastructure' status, however, Indian start-ups will have to continue to borrow at commercial rates (often 10-12%) while international competitors in the U.S. (SpaceX, Blue Origin) or Europe (Arianespace) are able to access venture debt or state-backed financing at lower interest rates.

Industry members have also highlighted a lack of relief to plug the gap between initial investments in research and development (R&D) and first revenue, colloquially called the "death valley". SIA-India and ISpA have both asked for a five-year tax holiday and tax credits for R&D, to incentivise heavy research spending. Otherwise, the financial risk remains entirely on the private entity and discourages the deep-tech innovation the government claims to want. "It seems like the government is interested in industry but ISRO is not," Mr. Prasad said. "ISRO has neither created significant pathways nor subsidised efforts that allow engagement of startups."

Therefore, industry members state that private firms will likely remain "second-grade" suppliers for ISRO's designs rather than endeavour to develop their own intellectual property. This in turn could prevent disruptive innovation, like reusable rockets or satellite-based IoT, which usually flourishes when private firms have the liquidity to take risks. It could also lead to brain drain.

'Inertia model will continue'

"India's private space ecosystem is entering a critical growth phase where early-stage capital must bridge the gap between prototype development and commercial scale-up," Deloitte India had written in a budget expectations report. "Despite rising investor interest since liberalisation in 2020, deep-tech ventures remain constrained by high hardware burn rates, long gestation timelines and limited private risk appetite."

In the 2024-2025 Budget, the Finance Ministry announced a dedicated Venture Capital (VC) fund of ₹1,000 crore for the space sector to boost the space economy five times over the subsequent decade and to close the "death valley". The Cabinet cleared the setting up of this fund in October 2024 and placed it under the aegis of IN-SPACe. After SEBI approved the fund, the Ministry earmarked ₹150 crore for 2025-2026. However, ISpA and SIA-India have differentiated between equity investment (which the VC fund provides) and fiscal or structural support, such as direct funding for high-risk R&D and for building private launch pads. That is, while the VC fund was a significant move for innovation, even if it was quite small, relative to the industry's needs, as experts noted last year, it doesn't get rid of the capital traps created by the GST regime and the high cost of debt for infrastructure projects.

In effect, the government has opened the door to the private sector legally, but financially it has yet to clear the path. The budget stabilises the public space programme, ensuring ISRO has the funds for Gaganyaan and future planetary missions, but has ignored the fiscal levers of GST rationalisation, infrastructure status, and tax holidays, which the industry's own representative bodies have championed. Thus it stops short of creating a viable private space market.

"Basically this indicates that, this year again, the inertia model will continue, with ISRO focusing on activities within itself," Mr. Prasad added.

THE GIST

- The fiscal roadmap reveals a disconnect between the government's rhetoric on privatisation and financial reality.
- Both ISpA and SIA-India have argued that the current GST regime creates a cash-flow problem: space companies pay significant taxes on high-tech imports and raw materials but because their final product is often exempt, they can't claim refunds on these inputs. The result is a hidden 18% tax on manufacturing, which makes 'Made in India' space hardware more expensive.
- Industry members have also highlighted a lack of relief to plug the gap between initial investments in research and development (R&D) and first revenue, colloquially called the "death valley".

Accident and life insurance sought for school, PU students

KSCPCR also urges authorities to implement 'Child Protection in Tourism Policy' to ensure the safety of children in the State's tourist destinations

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has appealed to the government to implement an 'Accident and Life Insurance' scheme for all school and Pre-University College (PU) students.

Thippeswamy K.T., a member of KSCPCR, has written a letter to the Chief Minister seeking a scheme on the model of Kerala.

In addition, Mr. Thippeswamy has urged the implementation of a 'Child Protection in Tourism Policy' to ensure the safety of children in the State's tourist destinations.

Thippeswamy K.T., a member of KSCPCR, has written a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a scheme on the model of Kerala. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

Several incidents

"In the last few years, many schools and PU colleges in the State have witnessed deaths and serious injuries due to children falling into hot pots of midday meals, accidents during school trips and sports events, electrocution, building and infrastructure failures and other incidents. Several complaints have also been registered before the commission in this regard. The government and educational institutions are responsible for providing a safe and child-friendly environment to schoolchildren under the 'Right to Education Act, 2009'. In addition, 'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the National Policy for Children' have also declared the life and safety of children as the primary duty of the government," the letter stated.

The Kerala model

"When accidents happen in schools or during school activities, it is not enough for children to have only "life insurance" coverage. Life insurance provides compensation only in the event of death. But in accidents, most children end up seriously injured, permanently disabled or in a state requiring long-term treatment. In such cases, only accident insurance can provide treatment expenses, disability compensation and emergency assistance. Therefore, both accident insurance and life insurance are indispensable for the protection of children. The Kerala government has implemented an accident and life insurance scheme for schoolchildren, and a similar scheme needs to be implemented in the State," the KSCPCR member added.

Coverage

Mr. Thippeswamy has sought that all students from classes 1 to II PUC of all government, aided and private schools and PU colleges in the State should be covered under this accident and life insurance scheme, and that all accidents that occur on school premises should be compensated.

" The State government should announce the scheme in the State Budget for 2026-27," Mr. Thippeswamy said.

HC rejects plea alleging passport seva kendra built on land used as 'playground'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed a PIL petition, which had alleged that the passport seva kendra situated in Koramangala was constructed illegally on the government land used as a playground for several years.

"No zonal plans have been produced by the petitioner that reflect that the subject land is a playground or an open area," said a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha while dismissing the petition, filed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Youth, Social and Cultural Welfare Trust, Koramangala.

Allegation

It was alleged in the petition that the land, allotted by the State government to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 1994, was a different land but the building of the passport seva kendra had been constructed on the land used as a playground. The petitioner had sought a direction from the court to immediately demolish and remove the structures put up by the MEA. However, the MEA pointed out to the court that there was an error in mentioning the survey number in the order of allotment of land issued by the State government and the error was rectified in 2023 after noticing that the three acres of land allotted to the MEA.

The Bench also noted that the State government, in its 2023 order, had clearly mentioned the three acres of lands allotted to the MEA in 10 different survey numbers of Koramangala village of Begur hobli.

Though the Bench found justification in petitioner's concern that open lands in the city are shrinking, it said that the MEA could not be interdicted from utilising the remaining vacant land allotted to it by the State government.

Four held for kidnap

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Banashankari Police have arrested four men for allegedly abducting a 28-year-old man and extorting money from him, officials said on Tuesday.

Police said the incident took place on January 24. Around 6.30 p.m., the accused allegedly kidnapped Nithin Gowda, a resident of Thyagarajanagar, in an autorickshaw and took him to a graveyard in J.P. Nagar. They obtained the password from the victim and transferred ₹47,000 from his bank accout and robbed him of a 29-gm gold chain, valued approximately ₹4 lakh.

Meet on Diamond Open Access

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India was placed at the centre of global conversations on equitable knowledge sharing at the five-day Global Summit on Diamond Open Access in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Hosted in India for the first time, the summit focuses on Diamond Open Access, a model of scholarly publishing that does not charge fees to authors or readers and is owned and governed by academic communities with support from publicly oriented institutions, according to a press release.

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND NO-15/TS/2025-26 Dated: 02.02.2026

KPPP Tender Notice
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 15/2025-26
DATED: 02.02.2026

Short Term Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Rural, under Hon'ble Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme (CMIDP) Head of account. The work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **(kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated: **10.02.2026** upto **5.00** pm. Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/SPAN/5401/2025-26

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ವೆನ್‌ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಎಸ್‌ಯುಪಿ(1)ಸಿ–46/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–02–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ (ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

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DHFWS/2025-26/IND2152

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DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1512/25-26 dt.03.02.2026

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KALABURAGI
Beside Mini Vidhan Soudha, Station Main road, Kalaburagi-585102
Email:commissionergda@gmail.com

No: KUDA/Plots E-Auction/2/2025-26 Date: 03-02-2026

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION FOR COMMERCIAL, CORNER, AND STRAY SITES IN ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT DEVELOPED BY THE AUTHORITY

1)	Date and time for payment of the processing fee and EMD to participate in the e-auction	:	From 07-02-2026 to 17-02-2026 up to 5:30 PM
2)	Last date and time for submitting bids in the e-auction	:	From 18-02-2026 to 19-02-2026 up to 5:30 PM (Delta time: 5 minutes)

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount payable to participate in the e-auction		Minimum bid increment amount
For sites measuring less than 54 Sq mtr	50,000/-	Rs. 20,000/-
For sites measuring more than 55 Sq mtr	1,00,000/-	

Sl No.	Name of the Scheme	Commercial	Corner	Stray	Total
01	Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Kotanur-D), located along the National Highway road leading from Kalaburagi to Jewargi, adjacent to the All India Radio station	06	42	22	70

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:
The terms and conditions of the e-auction and further information can be checked on the **website: kppp.karnataka.gov.in Department : Kalaburagi Urban Development Authority** or obtained from the office during working hours. Only those who agree to the auction terms and conditions are eligible to participate in the e-auction.

Sd/- Commissioner
Urban Development Authority Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1043/KSMC&A/2025-26

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-21012026-269474
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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 268] नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, जनवरी 20, 2026/पौष 30, 1947
No. 268] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026/PAUSHA 30, 1947

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
National Highways, K.R.Circle, Bangalore - 560 001.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 20th January, 2026

S.O. 296(E).— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of NH169 in the stretch of land from design Km 25.15 to km 60.00(Except Ch Km 52.70 to km 53.50) of (Nellisara camp toThirthahalli section) in the district of SHIVAMOGGA in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent, Authority National Highway, K.R Circle, Bangalore. in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from design Km 25.15to km 60.00(Except Ch Km 52.70 to km 53.50) of (Nellisara camp to Thirthahalli section) of NH169 in the state of KARNATAKA

State: KARNATAKA **District: SHIVAMOGGA**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectares)
Taluk: Tirthahalli					
Village: Kudumallige					
1	5	Private	Garden	303 (Square Meter)	0.0303
Village: Lingapura					
2	130	Government	Wet	202 (Square Meter)	0.0202
3	134/2	Private	Wet	202 (Square Meter)	0.0202
4	139/1	Private	Wet/Garden	606 (Square Meter)	0.0606
5	144	Private	Wet/Garden	505 (Square Meter)	0.0505
6	153	Private	Dry/Garden	3333 (Square Meter)	0.3333
7	56	Private	Wet/Garden	606 (Square Meter)	0.0606
8	68/1	Private	Wet	808 (Square Meter)	0.0808
9	69	Private	Dry/NAK	2020 (Square Meter)	0.202
10	70	Private	Wet	303 (Square Meter)	0.0303
11	77	Private	Dry/Garden	1010 (Square Meter)	0.101
12	94	Private	Wet	1414 (Square Meter)	0.1414
13	95/1B	Private	Wet	303 (Square Meter)	0.0303
14	95/5	Private	Wet	101 (Square Meter)	0.0101
Village: Odalamane					
15	4	Private	Wet	1995 (Square Meter)	0.1995
Village: Bharathipura					
16	148	Private	Garden	101 (Square Meter)	0.0101
17	149	Private	Garden	101 (Square Meter)	0.0101
18	151	Private	Wet	202 (Square Meter)	0.0202
19	165	Private	Garden	101 (Square Meter)	0.0101
20	166	Private	Garden	707 (Square Meter)	0.0707
21	173	Private	Wet	505 (Square Meter)	0.0505
22	193	Private	Wet	808 (Square Meter)	0.0808
23	194	Private	Wet	202 (Square Meter)	0.0202
24	208	Private	NAK/Wet	505 (Square Meter)	0.0505
25	65	Private	Garden	1010 (Square Meter)	0.101
26	80	Private	Garden	303 (Square Meter)	0.0303
Village: Thirthahalli Town					
27	59/8	Private	Garden	101 (Square Meter)	0.0101
28	66	Government	Wet	1717 (Square Meter)	0.1717
29	70	Common	NAK (Government/Private)	1717 (Square Meter)	0.1717
30	73	Government	Wet	2020 (Square Meter)	0.202
Village: Beguvalli					
31	1	Private	Wet	1616 (Square Meter)	0.1616
32	108	Private	Garden	1616 (Square Meter)	0.1616
Village: Tuduru					
33	14	Private	Dry	404 (Square Meter)	0.0404
34	155	Private	Wet	505 (Square Meter)	0.0505
35	18	Private	Dry	1313 (Square Meter)	0.1313
36	20	Private	Wet	808 (Square Meter)	0.0808
37	87	Private	Wet	202 (Square Meter)	0.0202
38	88	Private	Wet	3434 (Square Meter)	0.3434
39	99	Private	Dry	404 (Square Meter)	0.0404
40	Settlement	Private	NAK	505 (Square Meter)	0.0505
Village: Kudige (Gabadi)					
41	106	Private	Dry	202 (Square Meter)	0.0202
42	118	Private	Wet	404 (Square Meter)	0.0404
43	95	Private	Wet	404 (Square Meter)	0.0404
44	99	Private	Garden	404 (Square Meter)	0.0404
Village: Maluru					
45	69	Government	Dry	1717 (Square Meter)	0.1717
				Total	**3.7749**

[F. No. RW/NH/169/KNT/2022/3A]
SAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

ECONOMIC NOTES

At crossroads: Prime Minister Narendra Modi salutes marching NCC cadets during the NCC Rally at Cariappa Ground, in New Delhi on January 28. PTI

Why the government has increased capital spending for the defence sector

The government has announced a record ₹7,84,678 crore for defence in the FY2026-27 Union Budget, addressing urgent military needs amid geopolitical tensions. The increased funding aims to enhance domestic capabilities and support the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative

Anushka Saxena

For years, the Indian defence budget has been caught in a classic "guns versus butter" dilemma, attempting to balance the costs of human-power with the need for technological modernisation. If the figures released in the FY2026-27 Union Budget are any indication, the government seems to be turning the tanker. The FY2027 defence budget, hovering near the substantial ₹8 lakh crore mark, has the potential to meet the demands of a rapidly modernising military force and an expanding domestic defence industry.

The capital outlay

The absolute figures are robust. The total Ministry of Defence (MoD) expenditure has touched a historic high, nearing ₹7,84,678 crore for FY27 (Budget Estimate). This allocation accounts for 14.7% of the Government's total expenditure at the BE stage for FY27. While this percentage is a slight dip from the Revised Estimates (RE) of 14.8% in FY26, it marks a significant stabilisation compared to the lean years of FY21 and FY22, when the defence share had shrunk to nearly 13.2%. If New Delhi can continue to floor defence spending at 14-15% of the central spending pie, it would gradually insulate national security imperatives from the vagaries of fiscal consolidation

The spectre of ballooning revenue expenditure, specifically salaries and pensions, has haunted defence planners for decades. Because capital outlay is the fund that goes into modernisation and the purchases of big-ticket items such as armour, ships or aircraft, it is expected that revenue and capex components of a defence budget are at parity.

Utilising and diversifying

In the FY27 BE, the share of capital outlay has risen to 27.9% of the total defence budget. This is a remarkable jump from the 24.9% figure for FY23 (Actuals) and the 24.5% figure for FY20 (Actuals). In absolute terms, the capital outlay for FY27 BE stands at a staggering ₹2,19,306 crore. To put this in perspective, just a year prior, the BE for FY26 had allocated ₹1,80,000 crore for capital expenses. A year-on-year leap of nearly ₹40,000 crore in the capital head is hence significant. Not to mention, at the RE stage in FY26, more capex has been demanded, which is a departure from previously observed trends wherein the BE is always higher than the RE, and the RE is nearly always higher than the Actuals (see Chart 2).

However, to understand fully the urgency in these figures, one must acknowledge three main aspects of capex utilisation and the geopolitical realities of the past few years.

Firstly, this is the first full Union Budget presented after Operation Sindoor, and the financial footprint of that conflict is likely reflected in the demands for grants. The four-day intense aerial engagement following the Pahalgam terror attack exposed the need for a stockpile of armament such as precision-guided munitions (PGMs) and loitering munitions, especially if the Indian armed forces are to prepare for a two-front challenge involving both China and Pakistan. In that regard, it is possible that the 21.8% jump in capital outlay is not just for future-proofing, but also for the replenishment of the war wastage reserves depleted in May 2025.

Secondly, the expenditure trends may also signal that Emergency Procurement (EP) – once an adhoc measure after the Galwan incident – has now been effectively institutionalised. The rapid spike in capital spending suggests that the fast-track mechanism used to induct anti-drone systems and long-range vectors during Operation Sindoor could now be the standard operating procedure for critical technologies.

Thirdly, a critical nuance often missed in headline numbers is the concept of committed liabilities. These are payments due in the upcoming FY for contracts signed in previous years. Historically, a major chunk of capex has been absorbed by past obligations, which could include, say, installments for S-400s, Rafales, or Akash missiles signed years ago, leaving less untied cash for new signings. The hope is that the capex hike breaks this cycle, given that for the Government to be able to sign contracts for the procurement of say, Advanced Medium Light Aircraft, or Project 75I diesel-electric submarines, funds worth at least 10-15% of the total contract amount must be free for the agreement to go through in FY27.

Composition statistics

Finally, an assessment of the composition of the total MoD expenditure shows that the share of pensions in the total defence budget has contracted to 21.8% in FY27, down from 26% in FY20. Similarly, the salary component has moderated to 22.4%, a sharp decline from the 30% high seen in FY20.

While the absolute pension bill remains high, its share of the pie is shrinking, likely a preliminary result of the Agnipath scheme and a deliberate policy to cap revenue expenditure. With ₹2.19 lakh crore in the kitty for capital expenditure, the pressure now shifts to the domestic industry. The government has reserved nearly 75% of the capital acquisition budget for the domestic industry under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

The challenge, however, remains absorption capacity. Can defence public sector undertakings and private sector players deliver on time? The "Buy Indian-IDDM" (Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured) route of the Defence Acquisition Procedure is valuable, but recent operational urgencies dictate that delivery timelines cannot be flexible.

The heavy allocation suggests that the government is confident in the maturity of the Indian defence industrial base, and so, business performance, too, should reflect commitment to the act.

Anushka Saxena is a Staff Research Analyst at the Takshashila Institution.

A significant increase

This is the first full Union Budget presented after Operation Sindoor, and the financial footprint of the conflict is likely reflected in the budget for defence. The four-day intense aerial engagement following the Pahalgam terror attack exposed the need for a stockpile of armament

CHART 1: Defence expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure (in ₹ crore) across select years, and at various Budget stages

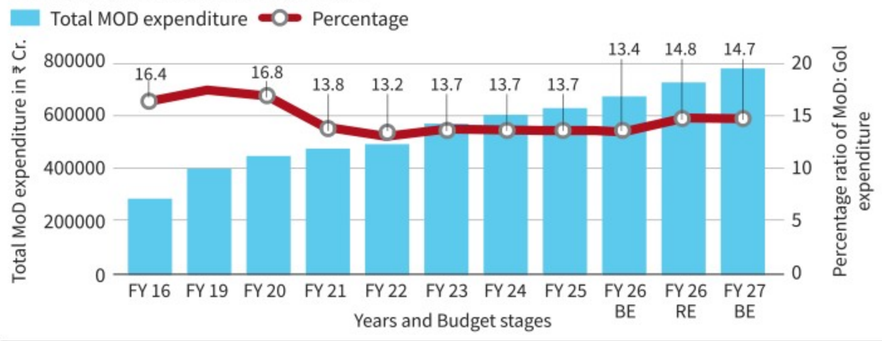
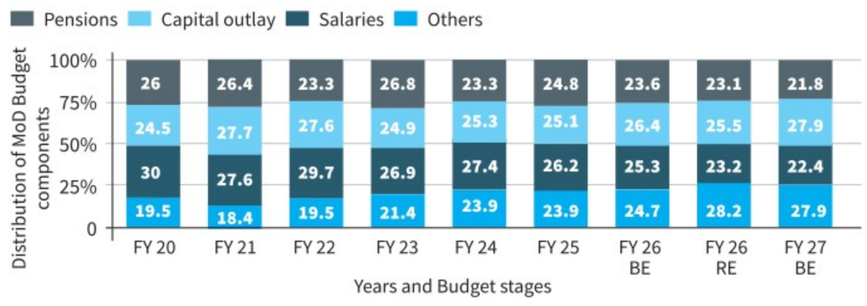


CHART 2: Comparative figures of capital outlay (in ₹ crore) across the past four years, and at various Budget stages

Years/ Stages	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27
BE (₹ crore)	1,52,369	1,62,600	1,72,000	1,80,000	2,19,306.47
RE (₹ crore)	1,50,000	1,57,228.2	1,59,500	1,86,454.2	-
Actuals (₹ crore)	1,42,940.01	1,54,256.28	1,59,768.4	-	-

CHART 3: Composition of MoD budget/ expenditures in percentage across select years, and at various Budget stages



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "humdinger"? (Usha, Andhra Pradesh)
This is a word that was used quite frequently by the experts during the World Cup matches. The first syllable "hum" rhymes with "sum", "rum", and "come". The second syllable "dinger" sounds like "singer", "ringer", and "bringer". The stress is on the first syllable "hum". "Humdinger" is an informal word which means "excellent", "marvellous". It can be used to refer to a person or a thing. Here are a few examples. The two matches between South Africa and Australia were humdingers. Everyone expected the final to be a humdinger. It turned out to be a damp squib.

What is the meaning and origin of "on cloud nine"? (Surabhi Nagappa)
When someone says that he/she is on cloud nine, it means he/she is extremely happy; he/she is on top of the world. Kasi was on cloud nine when he found out he was going to become a father. When the well known director asked Sumathi to be the heroine in his next movie, she was on cloud nine for days. This expression is frequently used by the Weather Bureau in the United States. Cloud nine is used to refer to the "cumulonimbus" clouds – the storm clouds that you see before it starts pouring. I understand that sometimes these clouds reach a height of 30,000 or 40,000 feet. So when you are on one of these clouds, you are pretty high indeed. You might feel, literally, on top of the world. Hence the meaning, to be very happy. The expression was made popular in the 1950s by a radio series titled, "Johnny Dollar". In this series, the hero was often knocked down unconscious. When he was in this state, he was transported to cloud nine from where he would continue to talk to the listeners.

What is the difference between "till" and "until"? (Somasundaram, Kodambakkam, Chennai)
"Until" is considered to be more formal than "till"; otherwise there is no difference between the two. They are often used interchangeably. Here are a few examples. I waited until/till the Chairman arrived. Her parents refused to buy her a bicycle until /till she learnt to become a little more responsible. I want to stay in Singapore till/ until the end of the month. We often hear people say "We walked until the gate and came back". This is wrong. "Until" and "till" both have to do with time, not distance. We should say, "We walked to the gate and came back".

What do you call the lines that are by the side of someone's eyes? (Jailakshmi, Chetput, Chennai)
Such lines are called "crow's- feet". The singular is "crow's-foot". Why are they called "crow's-feet"? Because the lines look like the feet of crows! Not a very favourable comparison, is it?

Published in The Hindu on June 29, 1999.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On Sunday, Carlos Alcarez became the youngest male tennis player to complete a career grand slam in the open era. Here is a quiz on the grand slams

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Starting off with an easy one, name the four grand slam tournaments.

QUESTION 2
What is a golden slam?

QUESTION 3
Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic are considered the 'big three' of tennis. Who among them has not completed the golden slam?

QUESTION 4
Name the first male and female players to complete calendar grand slams in the open era.

QUESTION 5
Who was the first male player to complete a golden slam?

Visual question:
Name this player who was the first ever to win a golden slam, and the only one to achieve it in a calendar year. FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This game led to mass public gatherings in 2016. **Ans: Pokemon Go**
2. This photo filter became the defining trend of 2016. **Ans: Dog filter**
3. This actor received his first Oscar in 2016. **Ans: Leonardo DiCaprio**
4. 2016 marked 10 years since the launch of this microblogging service and Google acquiring this platform. **Ans: Twitter; YouTube**
5. Groups froze in stylised poses in this trend. **Ans: Mannequin challenge**
6. This person was elected President of the U.S. in 2016. The U.K. voted to leave the EU in this referendum. **Ans: Donald Trump; Brexit**
7. This telecom launch in 2016 changed market dynamics. This economic move faced backlash. This sitting woman Chief Minister died after prolonged hospitalisation. **Ans: Reliance Jio; Banknote demonetisation; Jayalalithaa**
Visual: Name this social media platform. **Ans: TikTok**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Anisa Haque| Sukdev Shet| Piyali Tuli| Dodo Jayaditya

Word of the day

Flagellation:
beating as a source of erotic or religious stimulation; beating with a whip or strap or rope as a form of punishment

Synonyms: flogging, lashing, tanning, whipping

Usage: *After failing to deliver the parcel, he engaged in a mental session of self-flagellation.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/flagellationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌflædʒəˈleɪʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

1.85 lakh vehicles penalised for pollution violation cases in 3 years

Data from Transport Department shows a steady rise in enforcement activity over the years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Transport Department in Bengaluru inspected nearly 35 lakh vehicles for Pollution Under Control (PUC) compliance between 2023 and 2025, booking 1.85 lakh cases for violations and collecting fines amounting to ₹27.13 crore, according to official data.

The enforcement drive forms part of the government's broader effort to curb vehicular pollution in the city, particularly from ageing and high-emission vehicles, according to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said that the department has intensified checks on polluting vehicles while simultaneously focusing on public awareness.

"Older and poorly maintained vehicles are a major contributor to urban air pollution. Our department is strictly penalising vehicles operating without valid PUC certificates, but enforcement alone is not enough. We are also running sustained awareness drives to educate vehicle owners about the environmental and health impact of emissions and the importance of timely PUC compliance," he said. Data from the Transport Department has showed a steady rise in enforcement activity over the years. In 2023-24, officials checked 13,39,662 vehicles, booked 57,051 cases, and collected fines totalling ₹8.45 crore.

During 2024-25, inspections marginally dipped to 13,15,244 vehicles, but violations increased, with 67,957 cases booked and fines rising sharply to ₹11.35 crore. K_MURALI_KUMAR

PUC enforcement in Bengaluru

Year	Vehicles checked	Cases booked	Fine collected (₹ crore)
2023–24	13,39,662	57,051	8.45
2024–25	13,15,244	67,957	11.35
2025–26 (till December 2025)	8,88,582	60,954	7.32

Source: Transport Department

During 2024-25, inspections marginally dipped to 13,15,244 vehicles, but violations increased, with 67,957 cases booked and fines rising sharply to ₹11.35 crore. In 2025-26, up to December 2025, the department inspected 8,88,582 vehicles, booked 60,954 cases, and collected ₹7.32 crore in penalties.

A senior Transport Department official said that the rise in violations despite awareness campaigns indicates persistent non-compliance among vehicle owners, particularly operators of older diesel and commercial vehicles. "Our data clearly shows that a significant portion of violators are repeat offenders or owners of ageing vehicles that fail emission norms repeatedly," the official said.

Retrofitment centres

As part of pollution-control measures, the State has permitted the establishment of retrofitment centres across Karnataka. These centres focus on reducing emissions by installing the Retrofit Emission Control Devices (RECDs) on existing diesel engines used in generators and construction equipment, or by converting petrol and diesel vehicles to CNG-based systems. "These authorised centres allow high-polluting engines to meet current environmental standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board without requiring complete replacement. Retrofitment is a cost-effective solution that helps reduce emissions while extending the operational life of vehicles," the official said.

Suspension of DL recommended for serious traffic violations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Traffic and Road Safety has directed all traffic unit heads to recommend suspension of driving licences (DLs) for motorists involved in serious traffic violations, and subject helmet less, seat beat less riders and drivers for counselling sessions to ensure road discipline in line with the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety's recommendations.

In a circular issued on Monday, Deputy Inspector-General of Police and Commissioner for Traffic and Road Safety K. Parashurama reiterated that driving licences of violators must be suspended for a minimum of three months under Section 19 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, read with Rule 21 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

Traffic violations warranting suspension include overspeeding and jumping traffic signals, carrying excess load in goods vehicles or transporting passengers in goods carriages, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and using mobile phones while driving. The police units have been instructed to recommend suspension of driving licences to the Transport Department authorities in all such cases after the violation is recorded and the fine is paid.

Counselling sessions

Two-wheeler riders without helmets and car drivers not wearing seat belts are to be fined and subjected to at least two compulsory counselling sessions to educate them on traffic rules and ensure compliance.

Ambulance driver held for misusing siren

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sadashivanagar Traffic Police on Saturday arrested a 30-year-old ambulance driver for allegedly misusing a siren to obtain free passage for personal work.

The accused, Mohan Kumar, a resident of Banashankari III Stage and employee of a private hospital, was allegedly driving the ambulance in a rash manner with the siren on along the New BEL Road while heading towards the Sadashivanagar Police Station.

Police personnel on duty grew suspicious and intercepted the ambulance. Upon inspection, they found that there was no patient inside the vehicle. During questioning, Kumar claimed that he was rushing to pick up a sick patient.

However, the claim was later verified and found to be false, the police said. On inquiry, it was found that he was heading home for personal work. Taking strong objection to the misuse of emergency facilities, the police seized the ambulance and arrested the driver.

A case has been registered against him under Section 285 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for causing danger and obstruction on a public road.

The police have also seized the driver's licence and forwarded it to the Transport Department, recommending for suspension.

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

ENGG./PRODN./TECH.

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No. 0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: ldcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is inviting applications for one post of **Chief Engineer (Civil) on Deputation basis from Central / State Governments and PSUs engaged in port and marine infrastructure operation** from eligible candidates with Degree or equivalent in Civil or Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University / Institution having 15 years experience in civil or mechanical engineering works including at least 10 years experience in the field of Harbour Engineering, Planning or Construction of harbours or maintenance and operation of different kinds of port machineries.
Application with self attested copies of all certificates should reach the above address on or before 24.02.2026. Preference will be given to eligible and qualified candidates from Lakshadweep.
Please visit our Website: **lakshadweep.gov.in** for details.
02.02.2026 Sd/- General Manager

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No. 0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: ldcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is inviting applications for 3 (three) posts of **Marine Superintendent on Deputation basis from Central / State Governments and PSUs** or on **Contract basis,** from eligible candidates with Class I Marine Engineer Officer (MEO) having worked as Chief Engineer in coastal / foreign going vessels for at least one year.
Application with self attested copies of all certificates should reach the above address on or before 24.02.2026. Preference will be given to eligible and qualified candidates from Lakshadweep.
Please visit our Website: **lakshadweep.gov.in** for details
02.02.2026 Sd/- General Manager

GENERAL

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OFFICE STAFF • Accountant (Minimum 6 Years Experience) • Language Lab Trainer • Sound Engineer • Videographer & Editor • Media Lab Engineer
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Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), K. Narayanapura, Kothanur P.O., Bengaluru-560 077, Karnataka, India. Tel: 080-68737777 career@kristujayanti.com

GENERAL

ALAGAPPA COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu
(A Unit of Alagappa Group of Educational Institutions)
POSITIONS OPEN
• Dean
• Medical Superintendent
• Chief of Pharmacy
• Professor
• Associate Professor
• Assistant Professor
• Clinical Lab Manager
• Senior Residents
• Hospital Housekeeping Manager
• Head - Information Technology
• Admin Assistants, Nurses
• Nursing Superintendent
DEPARTMENTS
• Anatomy
• Physiology
• Biochemistry
• Pathology
• Community Medicine
• Microbiology
• Pharmacology
• Pediatrics
• Orthopedics
• General Medicine
• General Surgery
• Ob Gyn
• Anesthesia
• Radiology
• Emergency Medicine
• Dermatology
• ENT
• Psychiatry
• Dentistry
• Ophthalmology
SALARY : As per industry norms
Prior Experience In Hospitals & Medical Colleges
ELIGIBILITY : Qualifications and experience as per National Medical Commission (NMC) regulations.
chairman@alagappa.org | hr@alagappa.org 98848 50530

GENERAL

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)
No.AD/RSC-I-21-61-2022/276 Dated, the 29th Jan., 2026
Advertisement
Applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for engagement of 02nos. of **Dy. Chief Medical Officer (Specialist) (Class-I)** at Paradip Port Authority on **Direct Recruitment basis**.
For further details, visit our website: **www.paradipport.gov.in/Career.aspx.**
PPA/PR/66/2025-2026 Sd/- Sr. Asst. Secretary,
Dt. 30.01.2026 Paradip Port Authority

DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
(Estd under Govt of A.P. Act No. 32 of 2008)
"NYAYAPRASTHA", Sabbavaram, Visakhapatnam-531035, AP, India
Phone & Fax: 08924-248216, website: www.dsnlu.ac.in
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION Advt. No. DSNLU/NTS-01/2026.
DSNLU invites application(s) from eligible individuals for the following Non-Teaching Posts.
DEPUTY REGISTRAR (2), ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (2), PERSONAL SECRETARY (1), ACCOUNTS OFFICER (1), JUNIOR ACCOUNTS OFFICER (1).
DSNLU also invites applications from eligible candidates for the appointment of IPR Chair Professor (on consolidated pay of Rs.1,00,000/- per month) and Research Assistants(2)(on consolidated payment) for a period of 5 years.
For application form, eligibility criteria, scale of pay, rule of reservation and other details, visit DSNLU website: www.dsnlu.ac.in. The filled-in application with Registration Fee of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only),(Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) in case of SC/ST/BC/PH), by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of "The Registrar, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University" payable at Visakhapatnam or Online Payment should reach "The Registrar, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, "NYAYAPRASTHA", Sabbavaram, Visakhapatnam – 531 035, Andhra Pradesh" on or before 26.02.2026 by 5.00 P.M.
Visakhapatnam Sd/-
Date: 03.02.2026 REGISTRAR I/c

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION
No: CMRL/HR/CON/DEP/01/2026 dated 04-02-2026.
CMRL invites applications from qualified & experienced personnel for appointment of under mentioned posts on deputation / contract basis :-

S. No	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Type of Employment	Consolidated Pay for contract (Per Month)	Min Exp. (Yrs)	Max Age (Yrs)
1	CGM (Elevated Construction) / (Under Ground Construction)	4	Deputation/ Contract	Rs.2,70,000/-	25	55
	GM (Elevated Construction) / (Under Ground Construction)			Rs.2,25,000/-	20	55
2	AGM (Elevated Construction) / (Under Ground Construction)	8		Rs.1,60,000/-	17	47
	JGM (Elevated Construction) / (Under Ground Construction)			Rs.1,45,000/-	15	43
	DGM (Elevated Construction) / (Under Ground Construction)			Rs.1,25,000/-	13	40
3	Manager (Elevated Construction) / (Under Ground Construction)	7	Contract	Rs.85,000/-	7	38
	DM (Elevated Construction) / (Under Ground Construction)			Rs.75,000/-	4	35
	AM (Elevated Construction) / (Under Ground Construction)			Rs.62,000/-	2	30

Note:
I. The detailed employment notification will be published in CMRL website under careers section vide URL: **https://chennaimetrorail.org.** on or before **06-02-2026.**
ii. Age, qualification & experience stipulated for the above posts should be as on **04-02-2026.** Age and post qualification experience will be relaxed for deserving candidates.
iii. Salary is negotiable for deserving candidates.
iv. Last date for receipt of online applications is **23-02-2026.**
For Managing Director
Chief General Manager (HR & Legal)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited
DIPR/135/DISPLAY/2026

विश्वेश्वरय्या राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, नागपुर
VISVESVARAYA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NAGPUR
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
(An Autonomous Institute under the aegis of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
दक्षिण अंबाझरी रोड, नागपुर-४४००१०, महाराष्ट्र, भारत / South Ambazari Road, Nagpur-440010, Maharashtra, INDIA
दूरध्वनि/Tele :0712-2801364, फैक्स/Fax :0712-2223969, वेबसाइट/Website : www.vnit.ac.in
(VNIT/Adjunct Faculty of Practice on contract basis / 2026, dated 02/02/2026)
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Practice, Adjunct Associate Professor of Practice, Adjunct Professor of Practice
VNIT Nagpur invites suitable candidates to work as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Practice, Adjunct Associate Professor of Practice, Adjunct Professor of Practice on contract basis for the one year in the Departments of **1) Applied Mechanics, 2) Computer Science & Engineering, 3)Mechanical Engineering, 4) Metallurgical & Material Engineering, 5) Electrical Engineering, 6) Electronics and Communication Engineering, 7) Mining Engineering, 8) Chemical Engineering, 9) Centre for VLSI and Nanotechnology and 10) Physics.**
For detailed information about criteria, eligibility, experience, remuneratoin etc. please visit the Institute website : **www.vnit.ac.in.**
Deadline for submission of online application 11:30 p.m. on 3rd March, 2026.
The institute reserves the right to fill up or not to fill up any of the post(s) advertised.
REGISTRAR

UDUPI COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED (UCSL)
MALPE, KARNATAKA
Wholly Owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Limited
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.
Ref. No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11- AGM/SM/M/DM/65 dated 27 January 2026
RECRUITMENT
EXECUTIVES ON PERMANENT BASIS

Sl. No	Name of Posts	No. of Posts
1	Assistant General Manager (Engineering)	2
2	Senior Manager (Electrical)	1
3	Manager (Mechanical)	2
4	Manager (Electrical)	1
5	Manager (Materials)	1
6	Manager (QC)	1
7	Deputy Manager (Mechanical)	4
8	Deputy Manager (HSE)	1

For more details on age, qualification, remuneration, reservations, etc with regards to this advertisement visit www.cochinshipyard.in or www.udupicsl.com
Last date for Application: 17 February 2026. Sd/- MANAGER (HR&IR)

SATHYABAMA
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
CATEGORY - 1 UNIVERSITY BY UGC
APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF
VICE CHANCELLOR
* Candidates must possess a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in an Engineering discipline from a recognized University.
* Candidates must have outstanding academic credentials, with significant contributions to research, evidenced through publications, funded projects, patents, or equivalent scholarly work, along with proven administrative experience at senior levels of University governance.
* Candidates should demonstrate the ability to provide dynamic, visionary, and efficient leadership, fostering academic excellence, innovation, and institutional growth.
* Candidates must have expertise in developing strategic industry partnerships and active participation in nationally and internationally recognized academic or research collaborations.
(SCAN TO APPLY)
Last Date to Apply: 14th Feb, 2026
chancellor@sathyabama.ac.in
www.sathyabama.ac.in

A BG-BGE

Parents allege police assault on minor son in theft case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The parents of an 11-year-old boy have alleged that he was assaulted by the Parappana Agrahara Police in connection with a gold theft complaint.

According to the parents, the boy, a class 8 student, was accused of stealing a purse containing 120 gm of gold from a woman in Vinayaka Layout, Shantipura. The boy's father runs a dry-cleaning shop in the locality.

The incident took place in August last year, when a woman reportedly stopped near his shop after returning home in an autorickshaw. The boy was sitting inside the shop watching videos on a mobile phone. The woman allegedly gave him ₹10 before leaving by bus to Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu.

Six days later, the woman returned and filed a complaint claiming that her purse containing 120 gm of gold was stolen, accusing the boy of the theft. The police initially questioned the child and let him go after he denied the allegations. However, after remaining silent for nearly six to seven months, the complainant allegedly renewed the accusation. The parents claimed that the police then summoned the boy and his parents to the police station, where the child was allegedly assaulted.

The family alleged that the boy was beaten in front of his parents, intimidated by switching off lights multiple times, and forcibly made to record a video confession stating that he had stolen the gold.

Parents threatened

The police allegedly threatened that the parents would be jailed for three years if the gold was not returned. The boy reportedly sustained injuries to his ear and was admitted to a hospital. They also accused the police of pressuring the parents to hand over gold from their home after showing them the alleged confession video.

The alleged assault is highly regrettable, said Shashidhar S. Kosambe, Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR). The commission stated that it has taken serious note of the matter and has registered a *suo motu* case.

The commission has written to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronic City Division, seeking details of the incident.

The commission has directed that strict legal action be initiated if violations are found and has sought a detailed report on the matter.

15-year-old boy dies after falling from apartment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 15-year-old boy died after falling from the seventh floor of a residential apartment complex in Rajarajeshwari Nagar on Saturday night, police said.

The incident occurred at Mantri Alpyne Apartments on Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road.

Investigations revealed that earlier that evening, the minor, a class 10 student, had gone to Legacy Brewing Company, located in the R.R. Nagar police station limits, with his classmates, where he allegedly consumed alcohol and smoked.

The police said that after returning home, the boy fell from the seventh floor of the apartment building around 9.40 p.m., and died on the spot. The police are investigating whether the death was accidental or a case of suicide.

The boy's father has filed a complaint, alleging negligence. Based on the findings, the police have registered a criminal case against the owners and staff of the pub under the Juvenile Justice Act and the Karnataka Excise Act for allegedly allowing a minor to consume alcohol.

Further investigation is under way. (*If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.*)

FIR against Puneeth Kerehalli and two others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The S.J. Park police registered an FIR against right-wing activist Puneeth Kerehalli for allegedly abusing and threatening a man. Two others, Vasantha Giliyar and Kirik Keerthi, have also been named in the FIR.

The complainant, Byrappa Harish Kumar, 39, president of the Karnataka Ranadheera Pade, stated in his complaint that he had participated in a televised debate on the Dharmasthala issue on a local news channel on October 9, along with Vasantha Giliyar.

The FIR stated that an argument broke out between Kumar and Giliyar during the debate due to a difference of opinion. After the programme, a group of persons allegedly associated with Puneeth Kerehalli, who were present at the insistence of Giliyar, allegedly abused Kumar, attempted to assault him, and issued threats.

Based on a court's directions, the police have registered a case.

MPharm: Option entry

BENGALURU: The rank list and seat matrix for admission to the first round of MPharm and PharmD courses for the year 2025 have been published on KEA website.

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. E-mail:tamin@taminggranites.com Website: www.taminggranites.com
Tender No.769/IR1/2024 **NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER** Dated: 03.02.2026
E-Tendering Portal : https://tntenders.gov.in
Online tenders are invited in two cover system for the following tender.

1	Description of work	e-tender with reverse bidding for Selection of EPC Contractor / System integrator for setting up 600Kwp / 500kWac ground mounted solar PV Project inside the premises at TAMIN Graphite beneficiation plant, Sivagainga
2	Tender No. & Date	**769/IR1/2024, Dated.03.02.2026**
3	Tender ID	**2026_TNMIN_650617_1**
4	Bid submission start date	**04.02.2026 from 10.00 hrs**
5	Pre-bid meeting	**16.02.2026 at 11.00 hrs via Video conference the link will be circulated one day before**
6	Bid Submission End Date	**03.03.2026 upto 14.00 hrs.**
7	Technical Bid Opening Date	**04.03.2026 upto 16.00 hrs.**
8	Financial Bid Opening Date	Will be intimated later on through Tamil Nadu Government's e-Tender Portal
9	Tender form fee & EMD	Rs.1000/- (Non refundable) & Rs.2,50,000/- (Rupees two lakh and fifty thousand only) through online payment only

DIPR/695/TENDER/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)**

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया BOI Bank of India — Jayaprakash Nagar Branch: Vasudha ,no 2, 38th Main, jp Nagar Off 100 Ft Ring Rd, 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078
लॉकर करिए पर लेने के लिए सूचना NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS
Following Locker holders are hereby notified that their respective lockers will be broken open on **17-02-2026** as per the laid down procedure of the Bank, if they fail to pay the rental dues by **16-02-2026.**

Account Number	Locker Hirer Name	Locker No	Arrears (Rs.)
84131*310000493	RASHMI GUPTA	F-000133	Rs. 23,010.00

स्थान /Place : बेंगलुरु / Bangalore
दिनांक/Date : 04.02.2026
Branch Manager
Bank of India JayaPrakash Nagar branch

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया BOI Bank of India — Banashankari Branch: No2, Bharath Mansion, 100ft Ring Road, bsk, iii rd Stage, Iv Th Block, Banashankari-560085
लॉकर करिए पर लेने के लिए सूचना NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS
Following Locker holders are hereby notified that their respective lockers will be broken open on **17-02-2026** as per the laid down procedure of the Bank, if they fail to pay the rental dues by **16-02-2026.**

Account Number	Locker Hirer Name	Locker No	Arrears (Rs.)
84831011**04235	V K BHASKAR NAIDU	D-000215	Rs. 18,000.00
84831*1100*0592	K S M PRASAD	F-000255	Rs. 39,000.00

स्थान /Place : बेंगलुरु / Bangalore
दिनांक/Date : 04.02.2026
Branch Manager
Bank of India Banashankari branch

IREL (India) Limited
(A Government of India Undertaking)
सीआईएन/CIN : U15100MH1950GOI008187, वेबसाइट/Website : www.irel.co.in
ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015
TECHNOLOGIES FOR NEW INDIA @75 आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव
संदर्भ/Ref: ADVT.NO.IREL/EOI/ILM/2025-26/01 **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**
IREL (India) Limited invites Expression of Interest (EoI) (EoI No. EOI-IREL-OR-ILM/2025-26) for sale of Ilmenite during February- March 2026. Interested buyers may download EoI document from http://irel.co.in (news section). Any corrigendum to the same shall be hosted on above websites only.
वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (विपणन)
Senior Manager (Marketing)
CBC 48129/12/0004/2526

Office of Managing Director, Bureau for Facilitating MSMEs of TamilNadu (FaMeTN)
MSME Department, Government of TamilNadu
1st Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
The following tender proposal may be published in an English daily and a Tamil daily.

Sl.No	Tendering Authority & Bid Submission Portal, Date of Issue and Bid Due Date (BDD) and time	Subject of Request for Proposal (RFP)
1.	General Manager, FaMeTN **www.tntender.gov.in/** Bid issue Date: 04.02.2026 Bid Due Date & Time: 19.2.2026 (5.00 PM)	Appointment of vendor for the creation of high-quality video content that promotes government-sponsored MSME schemes and highlights successful entrepreneurs who have benefited from these programs..

All subsequent communications will be available at the site mentioned above/FaMeTN **(www.fametn.com)** website. The RfP notifications will also be available at **www.tntenders.gov.in/.** RfPs can be downloaded till BDD and will be opened on the portal **www.tntenders.gov.in/** on the respective BDD. The processes are meant to be end-to-end electronic and all submissions except presentations for the RFPs will be entirely online to the maximum extent possible. The responses could be used for empanelling firms and experts for similar projects in FaMeTN, at the sole discretion of the Tender Accepting Authority.
Managing Director
DIPR / 687 / Tender / 2026 **Bureau for Facilitating MSMEs of TamilNadu**

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Sub Division, Zone-2, Halasuru Lake Tank Bund Road, Halasuru, Begaluru-560042
No.: AEE(SJN)/PR/Quot/05/2025-26 Date: 03.02.2026
QUOTATION NOTIFICATION
Item rate quotation are invited under Rules 2000 of KTPP to take up the work of providing Data Rate approval for Chandeliar and LED Lights Work at Community Hall MV Garden in Ward No. 121, Halasuru at MV Garden Road coming under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Assistant Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Sub-Division, Zone-2 office.
Interested bidders are requested to submit their bids in a sealed envelope to reach this office on or before **4:30 PM** on **06.02.2026** during office hours. Bids received after the deadline will be rejected. Bids will be opened on the same day at **5:00 PM** in the presence of those present and action will be taken for rate approval.
Terms and Conditions: (1) The undersigned officers reserves the right to accept or reject the quotation. **(2)** For more details contact the above office. **(3)** The rates approved in the said quotation are for inclusion in the estimate list only.
Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Sub Division, Zone-2, Bangalore Central City Corporation

SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI
At.Post. Shirdi, Tal- Rahata, Dist. A.Nagar - 423 109
Phone No.: 02423-258858/61,
Website - www.sai.org.in,
E-Mail: saibabaiti22@gmail.com, saibaba_iti@yahoo.co.in
Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust Shirdi invites E- Tender Supply, Tools, Equipment's and Instruments for our I.T.I. Department from manufacturers, authorized dealers fulfilling the prescribed minimum qualifying criteria.
All detailed information & Tender documents will be available on **www.mahatenders.gov.in.** for downloading. Tender Submission Starts Date From 04/02/2026 time 11.00 a.m. & Tender submission end date 18/02/2026 Time 5.00 p.m.
Sd/-
Goraksha Gadilkar, I.A.S
Chief Executive Officer,
DGIPR/2025/2026/5521

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat
Office of the Executive Engineer
PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist.
No.: EE/PRED/RMG/JE/TND-33/2025-26 Date: 02.02.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-PROCUREMENT system)
The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in KPWD, enrolled in PRED/PWD Licence for the works In Channapatna Taluk Under Head of Account: 2024-25th Year CM Special Grant of Backward Classes Welfare Department. Name of Work **(1) Construction of Community Hall Near Sri Someshwara Temple in Sogala Village, Channapatna Taluk, Bengaluru South Dist-Call-2.** Tender amount Each work of **Rs.300.00 lakh**. Last Date for submission of Tender **Dated: 10.02.2026 by 4.00 PM**, Opening of the Tenchical Bid Tender **Dated: 11.02.2026 at 4.30 PM**, Opening of the Financical Bid Tender **Dated: 16.02.2026 at 4.30 PM onwards**. For details & further information visit the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office in office hours.
Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
DIPR/BSD/612/SA/2025-26 Panchayathraj Engineering Division

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE DEPARTMENT
SHORT TERM E -TENDER NOTICE INVITING NO.21/DB/F.114 N/2026, Dated:03.02.2026.
LUMP-SUM CONTRACT (Rate Tender System) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu e-tenders are invited by the Chief Engineer, Fishing Harbour Project Circle , Integrated office Complex, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Nandanam, Chennai – 35, under **"Two Cover System"** through online for the following works from the registered Civil Contractors of Tamil Nadu Public Works Department and Water Resources Department.

Sl No	Name of work	Apprx. Value of work in Lakh's (Including GST 18%) / Period of Completion	EMD Amount (Rs.)	Last date and time of submission of tender (As per server clock)	Date and time of tender opening (As per server clock)
1.	Expansion of Thoothukudi Fishing Harbour in Thoothukudi District.	14397.00 / 24 Months	72,08,500/-	19.02.2026 upto 03.00 pm.	20.02.2026 03.30 pm.
2.	Construction of Fishing Harbour at Tharuvaikulam in Thoothukudi District.	14397.00 / 24 Months	72,08,500/-	19.02.2026 upto 03.00 pm.	20.02.2026 03.30 pm.
3.	Expansion of Colachel Fishing Harbour in Kanniyakumari District.	14318.00 / 24 Months	71,69,000/-	19.02.2026 upto 03.00 pm.	20.02.2026 03.30 pm.
4.	Establishment of New Fishing Harbour at Vaniyakudi in Kanniyakumari District.	14335.00 / 24 Months	71,77,500/-	19.02.2026 upto 03.00 pm.	20.02.2026 03.30 pm.

The tender document will be available in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** to enable the tenders to view and download the e-tender document through online at free of cost. Payment of EMD and submission of tenders shall be done only through online.
Chief Engineer, Fishing Harbour Project Circle,
DIPR/678/Tender/2026 **Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Chennai-35**

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the of the Assistant Executive Engineer Shivajinagara Sub Division, Zone-2, Halasuru Lake Tank Bund Road, Halasuru Bangalore-560042
No.:AEE(SJN)/PR/Quot/06/2025-26 Date: 03.02.2026
PUBLICATION OF RATE LIST
The Assistant Executive Engineer, Bangalore Central City Corporation, Shivajinagar Sub-Division, Zone-2, Ward No.: 121, Halsur area, M.V. Garden Road, the following item-wise price list is hereby published in accordance with the provisions of the KTPP Rules, 2000.

Sl. No.	Description	Unit	Rate
1	Veener melamine polish with necessaary materials, including preparing the surface after thorougly cleaning oil, grease, dirt and foreign matter, cost of materials, labour complete as per specifications and as per directions of Engineer-in-charge. **QTY : 1.**	Sqm	
2	Providing and fixing of marble and Ply for cladding in CM 1:3 (1 cement: 3 coarse sand) proportion with a coat of rough plastering using CM 1:4 (1 cement: 4 fine sand), cut to required shape, pattern with paper joints, finished with cement mortar using white cement and colour pigments to match the colour of slab making through jointing with sealant, grooves in joints including cost of curing etc., complete including cost and conveyance of all materials, mortar, labour for all items of work, usage charges of machinery etc., complete as per specification.**QTY : 1.**	Sqm	
3	Supplying and fixing of wall back panel boxing using 18mm MR grade plywood and veener finish as per design and directions of Engineer-in-charge. **QTY : 1.**	Sqm	
4	Supplying and fixing of wall back panel boxing using 18mm MR grade plywood and RAW finish as per design and directions of Engineer-in-charge. **QTY : 1.**	Sqm	

Interested bidders are requested to submit their bids in the above format in a sealed envelope to reach this office on or before **4:30 PM on 06.02.2026.** Bids received after the deadline will be rejected. Bids will be opened on the same day at **5:00 PM** in the presence of those present and action will be taken for price approval.
Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Sub Division Zone-2, BCCC

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

BGS MARATHON

BGS NPS, Hulimavu, hosted the inaugural "Run for the Nation" Marathon under the blessings of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji, President, Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust®, and Sri Sri Dr. Prakashnath Swamiji, Managing Director, BGS & SJB Group of Institutions & Hospitals. Led by Principal Dr. Malini M. Dutta, the inter-school event brought together over 1,000 participants. Guests of Honour Ms. Rakshitha Raju, Mr. Jeevan Karekoppa Suresh and Mr. Deepak Mishra flagged off the 3 km, 5 km and 8 km runs. Winners were awarded medals and cash prizes at the campus ceremony.

STUDENTS EXCEL AT INNOVATION FINALS

Presidency School, Banashankari achieved a significant milestone by securing fourth position at the Young Innovators Programme finals organised by IIT Kharagpur, emerging from thousands of student projects nationwide and globally. The final round, held at IIT Kharagpur, featured presentations before a distinguished jury in the presence of the Honourable Education Minister, the Director of IIT Kharagpur and the Dean, International Relations. The students were recognised for originality, strong research and real-world relevance. This achievement highlights the school's rapid rise as an innovation-driven institution committed to nurturing future-ready learners.

ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATED

St. Joseph's Boys' High School celebrated their Annual Day with splendour, with Chief Guest Dr. Anand Vinekar, an alumnus of the 1991 batch, gracing the occasion. The audience enjoyed soulful choral performances by students of Grades 5 and 6, followed by an engaging enactment of the Vijayanagara kingdom featuring King Krishnadevaraya and Tenali Rama by the younger students. Vibrant dances, impressive masquerades and coordinated lights and sound added to the spectacle. The event highlighted the talent, hard work and discipline of the young Josephites under the dedicated guidance of their teachers.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai: Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, B R Mahadeva S/O Rame Gowda R/O Flat No. 552, 2nd Floor, 16th A Cross, HSR Layout, Sector 6, Bangalore South, P.O. Hsr Layout, Dist. Bengaluru (Karnataka) have changed my name to MAHADEV RAME GOWDA forever.

I, SHAMMY Raza, S/O Zafar Hasnain, born on 03/01/1996, residing at We-live Co–Living, next to Shobha Club House, Green Glen Layout, Bellandur, Bangalore – 560103, Karnataka, have changed my name to Shammy Kapoor vide affidavit dated 28/01/2026 at Bangalore.

I, NAGARATHNAMMA, R/a No.13/2, Queen's road, Opp Veterinary Hospital, BBMP, Bangalore Urban, Karnataka 560052 have changed my name to M. Nagarathnamma vide affidavit dt: 03.02.2026 sworn before Notary P.G.Unnikrishnan, B'lore.

I, Shivaganga B Dhareppanavar W/O, Karan Gupta R/o Flat No 2b-208 Krishna Ikon Apartments, Vinayaka Nagar, Vimanapura, B'luru- 560017 have changed my name to Shivaganga Dhareppanavar for all purposes.

I, Akash Deep, Resident of No.SA-12, NAL Staff Qtrs, NAL Campus, Jeevan Bima Nagar, Kodihalli, PO: Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017, Aadhar No.4351 7923 5910, Have Changed My Name to Akash Deep Gupta. Vide Affidavit Dated 03.02.2026 before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed. Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
(Substituted service of Notice to the Respondent by way of paper publication vide court order dated: 23/01/2026)
CMP No. 76/2023
c/w
CMP No. 131/2023
[Video Conferencing/Physical Hearing]
PETITIONER/s : Mrs. U. ANITHA REDDY
W/o. U. Yeshwardhan Reddy, Aged about 38 years, Residing at No. 36, Lakeshore Homes, Kasavanahalli, Off Sarjapur Road, Bangalore - 560 035.
Represented by her GPA holder
Mr. U. Yeshwardhan Reddy and Others
V/s.
RESPONDENT/s :
M/s. Vijicon Properties, Represented by its Managing Partner Mr. Vijay Agarwal
IN CMP No. 76/2023
RESPONDENT : M/s. VIJICON PROPERTIES A Partnership Firm, having Office at No. 88, 1st Floor, 17th Cross, 14th Main, HSR Layout, Sector-IV, Bangalore - 560 102. Represented by its Managing Partner: Mr. Vijay Agarwal.
ALSO AT: # 302, Western Tower, Wakad, Pune-411057. **...RESPONDENT/S**
Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court Under Section 11(5) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, as in the copy annexed hereunto.
Emergent Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter **on 19/02/2026 at 10:30 A.M** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of this Court, **on the 23rd day of January 2026.**
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Tanisha Sridhar Gane D/O, Sridhar Bs R/o 195, Beml 7th Stg, Mylasandra, Kengeri, Bengaluru have changed my name to Tisha Sridhar Gane for all purposes

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
(Substituted service of Notice to the Respondent by way of paper publication vide court order dated: 23/01/2026)
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Represented by her GPA holder
Mr. U. Yeshwardhan Reddy and Others
V/s
RESPONDENT/S : Vivansaa Baalsam,
Represented by its Partner
Sri. Vijay Omprakash
IN CMP No. 131/2023
RESPONDENT : VIVANSAA BAALSAM
A Partnership Firm having Office at No. 88, 1st Floor, 17th Cross, 14th Main, HSR Layout, Sector - IV Bangalore - 560 102.
Represented by its Partner
Sri. Vijay Omprakash. **...RESPONDENT/S**
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GIVEN under my hand and the seal of this Court, **on the 23rd day of January 2026.**
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **H.G.Chandrashekar,** S/o.Poojary Govindappa, Hucchanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hiriyur Taluk, Chitradurga District, has been lost, Registered Sale Deed document No. HYR-103881/2008-09, CD No.HYRD32 registered on 23-03-2009, Sub-Registrar, Hiriyur, in respect of Sy.No.35/2, measuring 5 acres of land Imangala Hobli, Yeradakatte village, re-Sy.No.35 total extent of 5 Acres land out of 21 acre 25 guntas my client lodged a police complaint, the vide lost report ref. DP No.132/2021, dated 20-07-2021 at Service House office, Rural Police Station, Hiriyur Taluk. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return to below mentioned address within 21 days from this notification.
SANJEEV RAO .S, Advocate No.14/1 and 15/1, 1st Cross, 2nd Floor, Sathyappa Plaza, Behind Pooja Complex, R.T.Street, Avenue Road, Bengaluru-560 053.
Mob: 9880721307,
Date: 03-02-2026

VTU bewildered by students' applications for internships

Internships have been applied in places, including bars and restaurants and hair clinics

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has unearthed cases of students applying for internships in strange places, companies that have shut down, and in some instances, even bars and restaurants and hair clinics. Having detected these, the VTU has issued warnings to the students.

These cases have come to light during the verification of online applications submitted by students for internship.

In one case, a student applied for permission to do an internship at a private company. Upon verification, it turned out that the company had closed down a year ago.

Another student claimed to have applied for an internship at a place with a name that sounded like an engineering company, which, upon verification, turned out to be a bar and restaurant in Chennai.

In another case, a student applied under the name of a well-known skin and hair care clinic in Bengaluru. But, the student had mentioned the address of Denmark under this clinic's name.

In one case, a student applied for permission to do an internship at a private company. Upon verification, it turned out that the company had closed down a year ago. FILE PHOTO

In yet other case, a student wanted to do internship in a travel company, which had been listed by the student has offering "IT internship for the role of Trainee Software Developer Intern (Travel-Tech Platform)".

The VTU has warned students that they are allowed to do internships in registered and authorised companies only. It warned that disciplinary action would be taken if such cases were repeated.

Engineering students are required to do a minimum of six months of internship in the 7th or 8th semesters to acquire the necessary skills in the stream they are studying. The university has allocated nine credits for internship.

The VTU has an internship portal to facilitate engineering students, and they can register there with companies offering internships. Most students do internships in the companies listed on this portal. A total of 82,000 students and 14,000 companies have registered on the portal this year.

On the other hand, students are also allowed to do internships in companies of their choice. These students have to upload the information of the companies they are going to do internship in the portal and get permission from the internship coordinator.

However, during the verification, it has come to light that some students tried to do internships in fake companies.

"We will approve internship applications only after strict verification. That is why we created this new portal, to ensure everything is checked systematically. It is advisable to do internships in companies registered on our portal. Disciplinary action will be taken against students who attempt to commit illegal acts," said S. Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of VTU.

Cancer burden remains high in Bengaluru: Kidwai Institute on World Cancer Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As Karnataka continues to record a steady rise in cancer cases, the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) on Tuesday underlined the need for stronger prevention, early detection and people-centred cancer care, with particular emphasis on Bengaluru and the State's growing disease burden.

World Cancer Day, observed on February 4 under the aegis of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), seeks to mobilise governments, health professionals and communities worldwide against cancer. The UICC theme for 2025-27, "United by Unique", continues through 2026 and calls for care models tailored to individual patients while ensuring equitable access.

State's cancer burden

In Karnataka, an estimated 89,125 new cancer cases are diagnosed every year, with around 2.5 lakh people currently living with the disease. Bengaluru alone accounts for a significant share of this burden, according to data from KMIO.

Quoting Population-Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) figures for Bengaluru, Kidwai director (additional charge) Naveen T. told *The Hindu* that among men, lung (9.7%), prostate (6.9%), stomach (6.5%) and mouth (6.4%) cancers are the most common. Among women, breast cancer dominates, accounting for 31.5% of cases, followed by cervical (9.1%), ovarian (6.4%) and mouth cancers (4.3%).

Tobacco-related cases

Tobacco-related cancers remain a major concern in the city, accounting for 36% of cancers among men and 15% among women. PBCR data also indicates an average annual increase of about 1% in cancer incidence among both sexes in Bengaluru, highlighting the growing public health challenge, he said.

Over 22,000 new cases

At Kidwai, one of the State's largest tertiary cancer centres, around 22,176 new cancer cases are registered every year, with more than 3.7 lakh follow-up visits recorded annually.

"Among male patients, mouth, lung, tongue and oesophageal cancers are most frequently seen, while breast, cervical, mouth and ovarian cancers predominate among female patients," Dr. Naveen said.

Data shows that tobacco-related cancers account for 31.2% of all cases treated at the institute. Childhood cancers (0-14 years) make up 3.8% of cases, with leukaemia being the most commonly diagnosed.

Lifestyle changes

On World Cancer Day, the institute stressed that many cancers are preventable through lifestyle changes, avoidance of tobacco and alcohol, vaccination, such as the HPV vaccine, and regular screening. It also highlighted the importance of early diagnosis, noting that timely detection significantly improves survival and treatment outcomes.

Police hold meeting with jewellery shop owners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The North East Division Police on Tuesday convened a meeting with jewellery shop owners operating in the jurisdiction of the Sampigehalli sub-division and directed them to implement the best practices and security guidelines issued by the City Police Commissioner.

The objective is to prevent armed robberies and improve the overall security and safety of jewellery establishments.

The police outlined a set of mandatory security measures to be followed by all jewellery shops. These include the installation of CCTV cameras with adequate coverage and proper recording facilities, installation of functional alarm and alert systems, and implementation of a multi-layered security framework.

Shop owners were also instructed to conduct periodic inspections.

Govt. doctors' association opposes curbs on private inpatient practice

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Government Medical Officers' Association (KGMOA) has objected to the State government's decision to restrict government doctors from providing inpatient treatment under the private system after duty hours, warning that the move would adversely affect healthcare access in rural areas.

In a statement, the association said government doctors have been undertaking private practice after official duty hours in accordance with existing government orders. However, the new restriction, which bars them from working in the inpatient department under the private system, would deprive patients - particularly in rural areas - of access to experienced specialists and surgeons.

The government has now classified services into inpatient and outpatient care, and directed that government doctors should not engage in private inpatient treatment. The association said this would create serious difficulties for rural patients who rely on such services due to the limited availability of specialists.

Not during duty hours

The association clarified that it does not support doctors providing private services during official duty hours. However, it said issuing unilateral orders targeting government doctors would have a serious impact on both the public health system and the morale of doctors.

Expressing concern, KGMOA president Ravindranath Meti said that recent government actions appeared to single out government doctors, leading to a decline in morale and negatively affecting their commitment to public service. "Arbitrary orders against doctors are weakening the public healthcare system," he said.

Dr. Meti also pointed out that despite several meetings and representations over the past four years, amendments to the cadre and recruitment rules had not been implemented.

He said that although seniority lists are required to be revised every year in December, they had not been updated for the past 13 years, resulting in doctors being denied promotions.

The association also flagged issues such as pay disparities, vacant posts remaining unfilled, and other service-related grievances, listing a total of 15 unresolved demands.

Calling for the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's intervention, the association urged him to address the grievances faced by government doctors. Failing this, it warned that the association would be forced to resort to protests.

Bengaluru exhibits outstanding digital and engineering expertise: Düsseldorf Mayor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru and Düsseldorf together can create a powerful platform for sustainable urban innovation, said Stephan Keller, Mayor of the German city Düsseldorf, during a fireside chat at Future ICT Forum 2026 in Bengaluru on Monday.

"Cities all over the world face very similar challenges, such as climate change, energy security, mobility, water, skilled labour... No city on earth can solve these issues alone. We need partnerships that combine different strengths. Bengaluru brings outstanding digital and engineering expertise, and Düsseldorf brings industrial scale, regulatory stability, and access to the European market," he said.

Stephan Keller, Mayor of the German city Düsseldorf, during a fireside chat at Future ICT Forum 2026 in Bengaluru on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Special partnership

A formal cooperation agreement was signed in 2023 between Karnataka and Düsseldorf to support start-ups, particularly in the fields of Industry 4.0, digital health, and sustainability.

Terming it a very special partnership, Mr. Keller said, "It connects start-ups, corporates, talent institutions and political decision makers on both sides."

"Indian start-ups use Düsseldorf as a soft-landing platform into Germany and Europe, while German companies expand their innovation and production activities in Karnataka. This creates trust, continuity and real economic value for both," Mr. Keller said.

Mr. Keller further added that Indian companies make a very concrete contribution to making German cities smarter and more sustainable, especially through digital innovation.

He noted the growing presence of Indian students at Düsseldorf's EU-REF-Talent-Campus, where master's programmes focus on climate innovation and the hydrogen economy, strengthening long-term talent and knowledge links between the two regions.

Talent exchange focus

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Keller highlighted the innovation capabilities, vibrant start-up ecosystem and talent pool of Bengaluru.

"We're working together strongly on the exchange of skilled labour. For the last two years, we've been working to make it easier for Indian talents to work in Germany. We have also been trying to make it easier for Indian start-ups to settle in the European market," he said, adding that one of the aims going forward would be to facilitate exchange of talent.

"We want to make it easier for people to move back and forth. We also want to see Indian start-ups settling in Düsseldorf and starting their growth, and from their growing to the European market," he said.

BIFFes: Women directors call for cinema beyond male gaze

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

How often do we see close-up of male lips in films across the globe? Very rarely, according to a study. However, close-up of women's body parts are a norm. It is this double-standard approach to cinema that concern filmmakers Jacqueline Roussety and Nidhi Saxena.

The duo was at the Bengaluru International Film Festival on Tuesday, sharing their thoughts on the topic "How Women Directors are Changing the Language of Cinema". Moderated by actor-filmmaker Sindhu Sreenivasa Murthy, the session highlighted the importance of women breaking the glass ceiling in the film industry.

Genius and muse

Ms. Roussety, a German actor and theatre director, criticised how the film industry views male filmmakers as geniuses and female artists as their muses. Her doctoral thesis focused on the portrayal of the classical relationship between genius and muse. Ms. Saxena wondered why women aren't the voice of a story and are reduced to mere objects of desire. "In Govind Nihalani's *Aakrosh*, a rape scene doesn't show skin. The focus isn't on the woman's body. It shows the place where the hideous act is taking place, yet makes you feel uncomfortable. That's real filmmaking, which doesn't tempt people with the gaze of the camera," she said.

Filmmakers Jacqueline Roussety and Nidhi Saxena at the Bengaluru International Film Festival in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

German actor and theatre director has criticised how the film industry views male filmmakers as geniuses and female artists as their muses

Ms. Saxena's film, *Secrets of a Mountain Serpent*, premiered at the Venice Film Festival, 2025. Set in a 1990s Himalayan town, the film explores a woman's desire.

It tells the story of a school teacher whose husband is away at the border. Her long-buried yearnings are awakened when she gets drawn to a mysterious outsider.

Ms. Murthy, who made her directorial debut with the Kannada period film *Aachar & Co*, delved into the thought process behind the male characters in the movie.

Men who support

"I showed men who support women. I wanted to say the world has soft and tender men. Sometimes, instead of just focusing on the problem, we must show an alternative reality." *Aachar & Co*, set against the backdrop of 1960s Bengaluru, tells the story of a traditional family as they face challenges of adapting to changing times. Ms. Roussety also pointed out how male characters are portrayed as physically strong, irrespective of their age, whereas it's not the same with female characters. "You have Tom Cruise doing unbelievable stunts in the *Mission Impossible* series, and that's fine. However, he is paired opposite a female actor who is half his age. It's a disturbing trend. Why do we see young women next to men who are 40 and 50? Where are the stories of women who have crossed 35?"

Ms. Saxena felt female directors should be considered capable of making engaging mainstream movies and not be labelled as "documentary filmmakers". "That's why the success of Zoya Akhtar and Kiran Rao is huge," she said.

Ace producer

The discussion also acknowledged the towering achievement of Parvathamma Rajkumar, the dynamic producer who thrived in the field by bankrolling over 50 Kannada blockbusters. "At first, I knew her as Dr. Rajkumar's wife. But after learning about her career, I feel inspired. We need more such victory stories in Kannada cinema," said a member in the audience.

Explosives found at site in residential area

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hulimavu police recovered a huge cache of explosive materials from a densely populated area of the city on Tuesday.

The incident was reported from Akshayanagar.

According to the police, gelatin sticks were being illegally used to break rocks at a 100 X 100 ft site without obtaining the mandatory permissions. The blasting activity was allegedly carried out between 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. in a busy residential locality, posing a serious threat to public safety. Upon receiving information, the Hulimavu police conducted an inspection. During the operation, the police seized 15 gelatin sticks and 30 detonators and explosive material from the site. A tractor and a machine were also seized. Police said that the daily wage labourers working at the site fled the area as soon as the police arrived.

Following the incident, a bomb disposal squad was pressed into service. A case has been registered at the Hulimavu police station against site owner Chandru for illegally storing and using explosives.

Police officials stated that strict legal action would be initiated against those responsible for using dangerous explosives in a crowded area without permission or safety measures. The bomb squad will submit a detailed report on the source of the explosives, based on which further legal proceedings will be carried out.

Opposition starts overnight dharna seeking Excise Minister's resignation

It has alleged that there is corruption to the tune of ₹ 6,000 crore in Excise Department; Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says no need for the Minister to resign based on mere allegations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP and the JD (S) MLAs began an overnight protest on Tuesday inside the Vidhana Soudha demanding the resignation of Excise Minister R.B. Thimmapur over the alleged corruption scandal in his department.

Earlier in the day, Leader of Opposition R. Ashok alleged that there was corruption to the tune of ₹6,000 crore in the department, referring to a letter by Guruswamy, president, Karnataka Wine Merchants' Association, an Excise official being trapped by the Lokayukta police recently, and a purported audio conversation between an Excise official and a lawyer.

However, the government pushed back and even Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said there was no need for the Minister to resign based on mere allegations.

Mr. Thimmapur said that several former Excise Ministers also faced allegations of corruption and they were often made by vested interests. He claimed that he had brought in several reforms in the department to bring in transparency, and denied allegations of corruption. He tried to distance himself from the allegations and claimed that some officials were in the wrong and they had tried to misuse his name, referring to the audio clip in question. He said the officer was suspended.

BJP and JD(S) MLAs during an overnight dharna at the Vidhana Soudha demanding the resignation of Excise Minister R.B. Thimmapur, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Audio tape

Mr. Ashok read out the transcript of an audio recording of a conversation between Excise Joint Commissioner Nagarajappa and a lawyer named Ramesh, in which there is a demand for ₹18 lakh for setting up a new wine store.

"The audio says that bribes will be passed on to Mr. Thimmapur and his son Vinay. It is said that to reduce the bribe, one has to speak directly to the Minister," Mr. Ashok said.

The reference to the part of the audio in which a senior Excise official purportedly suggests to the applicant to meet the Chief Minister or his son to get a new liquor vending licence, created a flutter in the Assembly.

A complaint in this regard had also been filed before the Lokayukta and an Excise Department official had even made a statement on the corruption in the department before the Lokayukta, Mr. Ashok pointed out. He wondered why the audio recording was not sent to the FSL to verify the authenticity.

He also alleged that the bribes collected were finding its way to fund elections in other States. He said the Congress government was obliged to send money to Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Wait till probe

Senior Minister K.H. Muniyappa suggested that since the case was under investigation by the Lokayukta, demanding resignation of the Minister at this stage was unfair. "Let the investigation be completed and based on the findings, the next course of action will be taken," he said.

Mr. Thimmapur took objection and said there was no case against him and the case in Lokayukta only pertained to officials.

Multiple Ministers including Priyank Kharge, Dinesh Gundu Rao and Sharan Prakash Patil defended Mr. Thimmapur and pointed out allegations of corruption during the BJP regime and instances when the Ministers did not resign.

The BJP members pointed out instances of Ministers Nagesh and K.S. Eshwarappa resigning over corruption allegations.

Resolution opposing VB-G RAM G Act tabled amid BJP, JD(S) dissent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid vociferous protests by the BJP and the JD(S) members, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday tabled a resolution in the Assembly that expresses "serious opposition" of the House to the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, and urges the Centre to fully restore the earlier Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, by rolling back the new job scheme.

"In the interest of protecting the right to life of rural people of Karnataka, this House urges the Centre to immediately annul the VB-G RAM G Act that is not only opposed to the federal structure and idea of decentralisation, but also snatches the power and rights of village panchayats besides causing serious burden on the State exchequer," the three-page resolution tabled by the Chief Minister said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Reiterating the Assembly's commitment to the principles of decentralisation and the panchayat raj system which is the strong foundation for the country's democratic system, the resolution said the House viewed the annulling of the MGNREGA seriously as it was an elixir of life for rural poor, besides being a part and parcel of their lives.

The resolution claimed that MGNREGA introduced in 2005 by the UPA government had brought about revolutionary changes through removal of unemployment, stopping of migration, payment of wages without gender discrimination, strengthening of panchayat decentralisation and creation of personal and community properties in rural areas.

The new Act violates the right to life and livelihood granted under Article 21 and also goes against the spirit of the 73rd amendment of the Constitution that grants autonomy to village panchayats, besides defeating the purpose of Mahatma Gandhi's *gram swaraj*, the resolution said.

Pointing out that the new legislation would make States to share 40% of the cost of wages for 150 man days unlike the earlier scheme where the Centre bore the entire cost of wages, the resolution said this would affect the federal structure and violate Articles 258 and 280 of the Constitution.

Burdening the State with 40% cost of the job scheme at a time when the State's share of Central taxes have been reduced from 4.71% in the 14th Finance Commission to 3.64% in the 15th Finance Commission was a ploy to push the State's economic security and development to the danger zone, the resolution stated.

"The new Act has snatched the powers of gram sabhas as the plans are being formulated from the ivory towers of Delhi," the resolution alleged.

The new scheme gives employment only for 10 months a year and there is no clarity on the inclusion of all panchayats and payment of wages, the resolution alleged.

Siddaramaiah loses cool multiple times

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah lost his cool and lashed out at the Opposition multiple times in the Legislative Assembly following repeated and unrelenting interruptions while he was speaking on the resolution against the VB-G RAM G Act.

At least twice during Tuesday's session, the Chief Minister angrily asked the members of the treasury benches, who were watching the debate, to stand up and launch a counter-attack at the Opposition.

As the Chief Minister tabled the resolution against the new law that has replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, BJP members insisted that the resolution should be modified to indicate that only the government and the ruling Congress were opposed to the new job scheme and that seven days prior notice should have been given.

Though Speaker U.T. Khader gave a ruling that the advance notice rule did not apply to resolutions tabled by the government, the pandemonium continued. This led to the House being adjourned and the Speaker trying to broker peace between the Opposition and the treasury benches.

However, as the Chief Minister restarted the debate on the resolution, the Opposition members continued to interrupt him.

Ashok reads speeches written by RSS: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah taunted Leader of Opposition R. Ashok that he reads speeches written for him by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and a man from the organisation usually sits in the Assembly to monitor his performance.

Mr. Ashok hit back that since he was from the RSS there was no need for anybody from the organisation to write his speeches. He also took offence to suggestions that his speeches are written by someone else and said he was elected seven times to the Assembly.

Another BJP member V. Sunil Kumar interjected and said that the Chief Minister's intelligence was not up to the mark and Mr. Ashok gets inputs from the person sitting next to the Chief Minister, hinting at Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

At another point, Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged that the *Manusmriti* was behind the BJP repealing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

"The new law that has replaced it, pushes women, families from Scheduled Castes and Tribes into hardship. The *Manusmriti* is opposed to the empowerment of these sections. The RSS and the BJP are influenced by the *Manusmriti* and to implement the same have repealed MGNREGA," he said.

'Hubballi event used to boost liquor sales'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The government had to face embarrassing moments in the Assembly on Tuesday as the Opposition members referred to a message allegedly issued by an Excise Department official to liquor vendors in Hubballi asking them to boost liquor sales by making the best use of a government programme in which a large number of people took part.

Message by official

Raising the issue in the Assembly, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok alleged that a senior Excise official, Prakash Patil, had sent such a message to all liquor vendors in Hubballi ahead of the January 26 convention of the government to mark the distribution of a large number of houses. "Pointing out that there was a possibility of 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh persons attending the convention, the official had asked the liquor vendors to ensure that they have enough liquor stocks to boost their sales," Mr. Ashok alleged.

Chalavadi seeks action against govt. advertisements

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi T. Narayanaswamy has lodged a complaint with the Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, seeking action against advertisements issued by the Karnataka government that allegedly criticised the VB-G RAM G, a Central government-approved welfare scheme.

In a representation addressed to the chairperson and member-secretary of the CCRGA, Mr. Narayanaswamy said advertisements released by the State government in various print media on January 29 and February 3, were "designed to deliberately criticise" a Central scheme and create confusion among the public.

He contended that once a legislation or welfare scheme is approved by Parliament and receives the assent of the President, it attains finality and is binding across the country. A State government, he said, cannot seek to oppose or undermine such schemes through advertisements funded by public money.

"The State is an integral part of the Constitutional framework of the Union and is duty-bound to act in aid of, and not in derogation of, Central enactments and approved schemes," the complaint stated.

Mr. Narayanaswamy alleged that the advertisements violated the Supreme Court's guidelines on government advertising, laid down in the Common Cause vs Union of India (2015) judgment, which mandate political neutrality in publicly funded advertisements. He argued that the advertisements in question were politically motivated and amounted to the use of public funds for political criticism.

Misuse of funds

Terming the advertisements a misuse of public funds, he said taxpayers' money should be used only to disseminate information about welfare schemes and not for political confrontation between the Centre and the State.

Seeking intervention, Mr. Narayanaswamy urged the CCRGA to direct an immediate halt to the advertisements.

Legislative Council proceedings washed out over remarks by Naseer Ahmed and C.T. Ravi

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Proceedings of the Legislative Council were disrupted for the entire day on Tuesday, triggered by Congress member Naseer Ahmed's remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP member C.T. Ravi's subsequent comment, leading to noisy protests, demands for apologies from both sides, and eventual adjournment of the House.

The disorder stemmed from the remark by Mr. Ahmed against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during Monday's discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, which was expunged. The BJP members continued to stall proceedings during the first half on Tuesday too, seeking action.

As soon as the House assembled in the morning, BJP members gathered in the well, raising slogans against Mr. Ahmed despite repeated appeals by Chairman Basavaraj Horatti to maintain order.

During the exchange, Mr. Ravi questioned whether any "Indian tongue" could speak against the Prime Minister in such a manner and went on to make a remark, which too was eventually expunged.

Proceedings of the Legislative Council were disrupted for the entire day on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Congress members objected strongly, describing the remark as offensive, and demanded an apology from Mr. Ravi.

The Chairman reminded members that the rules did not permit slogan-shouting in the well and cautioned Mr. Ravi that he was crossing the limits of acceptable parliamentary conduct. He asked Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy to restrain his colleague.

Expression of regret

Stating that it was the sense of the House that Mr. Ahmed had insulted the Prime Minister, the Chairman urged him to tender an unconditional apology. Mr. Ahmed, who initially said he had been provoked, finally told the House, "I was provoked and made the statement. If anyone has been hurt by my remarks, I regret it."

When the House reassembled after the lunch break, Congress members turned the tables and demanded that Mr. Ravi also express regret. Members pointed out that the Opposition was repeatedly targeting Muslim Congress members. "We have been born and brought up here and will die on this land. Such repeated remarks are unacceptable," ruling party members, including Bilkis Banu, Saleem Ahmed among others, said. Deputy Chairman M.K. Pranesh said that while the Chair had appealed several times, it was ultimately left to Mr. Ravi's conscience. He said the Chair had its own limitations and in this case he could not give a ruling.

Refusal to apolgise

However, Mr. Ravi refused to apologise, maintaining that he was "a complainant and not an accused." He said he had not used unparliamentary words, had not named any individual, and had only urged the Chair to take action against those who made remarks against the Prime Minister.

Senior Congress Ministers and other members, including H.K. Patil, M.B. Patil, Santosh Lad, and Saleem Ahmad, argued that repeated appeals by the Chair amounted to a ruling and that Mr. Ravi should comply in the interest of the House. The Deputy Chairman said all unparliamentary expressions would be expunged from the records, irrespective of who had made them. Despite this, the House continued to witness acrimonious scenes.

With neither side relenting, the Deputy Chairman in the evening adjourned the House.

Tariff reduction expected to accelerate State's export-led growth, says trade community

'Industry bodies in Karnataka believe that tariff relaxation not only improves market access, but also shifts global narrative from cost arbitrage to value-led innovation, R&D'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka is one of the biggest exporters of garments. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The U.S. government's decision to reduce import tariffs on Indian goods is expected to significantly boost the competitiveness of Karnataka's garment exporters, MSMEs, aerospace, and auto components manufacturers, while also benefiting emerging sectors such as electronics, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, agro-products and Global Capability Centres (GCCs), said industry leaders.

"Karnataka is one of the biggest exporters of garments. The reduction in tariff to 18% is a big boost for garment exporters. India will have the advantage of having lower tariff compared to other countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, China, and Pakistan," said K. Ravi, senior vice-president and chairman, International Business Expert Committee, at BCIC.

Industry bodies in Karnataka believe that the tariff relaxation not only improves market access vis-à-vis competing countries, but also shifts the global narrative from cost arbitrage to value-led innovation, R&D and advanced engineering, Mr. Ravi said.

He further said: "The relaxation of tariff to 18% is also a big relief to MSMEs, which had expressed severe concerns regarding reduced profitability and competitiveness. Karnataka being the hub of aerospace components and auto parts, the tariff reduction will improve competitiveness and increase profits. "

Uma Reddy, president, FKCCI, said: "The tariff reduction is the icing on the cake, especially after the Budget focusing on accelerating growth of MSMEs."

According to industry bodies, the State is also poised to attract higher-end technology work, strengthen GCC expansion beyond Bengaluru.

According to Aravind Melligeri, executive chairman and CEO, Aequs Limited, the tariff reduction would materially improve India's competitiveness vis-a-via other Asian countries. "With China at 30%; Vietnam at 19%, and India being at 18%, this will make our products cost effective."

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to cut tariffs comes at a time when recent policy measures and international trade agreements are aligning to accelerate growth, exports and employment across Karnataka's manufacturing and services ecosystem. As Bangalore hosts over 52% of India's GCC, the focus now shifts from cutting costs towards leveraging India for higher value technology work such as AI, engineering, R&D and global expansion. This will also encourage companies to set up GCC's in emerging hubs like Mysuru, Mangaluru etc, as per entrepreneurs.

The self-enumeration process and the eventual house-listing and housing-census process are likely to start after the Assembly election. The photograph shows enumerators entering the details of a family as part of Census 2011 in Chennai. FILE PHOTO

T.N. gears up for Census

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is gearing up for Census 2027, as Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam chaired the first meeting of the State-level coordination committee at the Secretariat on Monday.

The self-enumeration process and the eventual houselisting and housing-census process are likely to start after the Assembly election.

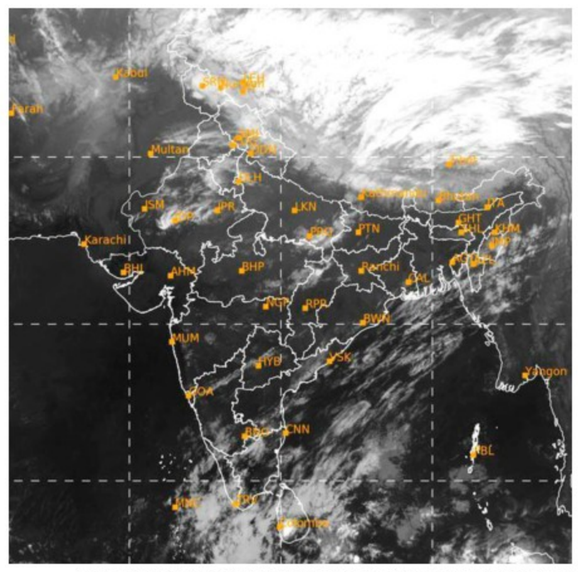
At the first meeting, coordination among various stakeholders, including State government departments, and notification of census officers were discussed, Director of Census Operations (Tamil Nadu) M. Sundaresh Babu said. About 1.5 lakh officials, including enumerators and supervisors, are expected to take part in the process. The houselisting and housing-census process is likely to commence in June or July.

This will also be the first digital census. Each of the households would be asked 33 questions from the questionnaire by enumerators. There will also be an option for self-enumeration, and the questionnaire could be obtained after registering oneself on the portal (to be notified later). "Once they fill up the details, an ID will be generated. When the area- or street-level enumerator visits, the ID should be given and he/she will use the app to check and validate," Mr. Babu said. After the self-enumeration process that will last 15 days, the houselisting and housing-census process will commence and go on for 30 days. Officials are finalising plans to train the enumerators, the supervisors, and other officials who will be involved in the process.

All the staff members at the Directorate of Census Operations in Chennai have been trained. Four staff members of the Chennai office underwent training as national trainers. Lead trainers, master trainers, field-level trainers, enumerators, supervisors, and others will be trained, Mr. Babu said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Dense fog likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Sub Himalayan West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.4	13.1	Kozhikode	—	34.2	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	29.6	19.2	Kurnool	—	32.8	20.0
Aizawl	—	30.4	14.8	Lucknow	—	20.4	14.3
Allahabad	—	23.4	12.2	Madurai	—	33.3	21.2
Bengaluru	—	29.2	16.6	Mangaluru	—	33.4	23.1
Bhopal	—	24.2	13.4	Mumbai	—	32.7	20.0
Bhubaneswar	—	31.2	15.5	Mysuru	—	31.0	17.8
Chandigarh	—	20.2	9.8	New Delhi	—	22.5	9.4
Chennai	—	30.7	20.4	Patna	—	26.0	15.6
Coimbatore	—	31.6	20.2	Port Blair	0.3	30.4	25.4
Dehradun	—	23.6	11.2	Puducherry	—	28.2	20.6
Gangtok	—	18.0	8.5	Pune	—	32.2	18.0
Goa	—	34.5	21.8	Raipur	—	32.0	17.2
Guwahati	—	28.5	14.1	Ranchi	—	26.3	11.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	18.0	Shillong	—	20.2	7.0
Hyderabad	—	28.6	18.6	Shimla	—	15.2	6.4
Imphal	—	26.6	6.1	Srinagar	1	10.0	2.8
Jaipur	—	24.3	11.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.9	23.6
Kochi	—	30.0	24.2	Tiruchi	—	30.7	20.6
Kohima	—	18.8	8.0	Vijayawada	—	29.5	20.0
Kolkata	—	27.4	14.1	Visakhapatnam	—	29.1	20.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.70	..80	46	... 115	...152	
Bengaluru	...6	..24	26	... 192	...133	
Chennai	...8	..11	51	... 170	...129	
Delhi	.12	177	77	... 330	...235	
Hyderabad	...5	..10	76	... 117	...132	
Kolkata	.10	107	57	... 223	...148	
Lucknow	...9	..61	68	... 130	...167	
Mumbai	.12	..99	53	... 142	...114	
Pune	..—	..65	..2	... 302	...205	
Visakhapatnam	...6	..35	23	... 172	...135	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 337 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INNOVATE KARNATAKA | K-tech

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE NO. KITS/IT/SUPR/5/2024-AA-KITS

KITS invites applications from eligible non-for-profit organizations (Society, Trust or Section 8 companies only) across Karnataka to conduct Incubation and Acceleration Programs (WEscalate) exclusively for Women-led startups for the FY 2026-27.

The interested Incubators/Accelerators are required to submit an application in the prescribed proforma along with the necessary enclosures in online form link: https://forms.gle/mFotz8ajDMtHucPLA and also the Call for Proposals document is also available in the department website : https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/en and all the Annexures (printed on letter head) should be emailed at Wescalate2024@gmail.com with subject line **"WEscalate- Elevate Women Entrepreneurship – 2026-27".**

The deadline for submission of application is **04/03/2026, 5:00PM.** Refer Call for Proposals document for prequalification criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231008
E-mail: aenain.kits@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/5391/AKAR/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division
Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru.

No:EE/SJN/E-Proc/18/2025-26 **Date: 03-02-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Two Cover)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Executive Engineer, (Shivajinagara Division), BCCC, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Construction of Kalyani, Rock Fill Bund in Halasuru Lake, Bengaluru Urban District Amount Put to Tender (Without GST) : **₹728.75 Lakhs,** EMD: **₹11,00,000.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **16-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **13-02-2026** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer Zone-2, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Annex-3, 4th Floor, GBA Office Compound, N R Square, Bengaluru. (3) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **16-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of Technical Bid opening of Tenders is on **17-02-2026** by **11:00** am. (5) Opening of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Shivajinagara Division

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER - 2nd Call
(Only through KPP portal)

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cstr&DCW)/2227/2025-26 **Date: 03.02.2026**

BWSSB invites Tenders in from eligible tenderers for the work of **Providing Project Monitoring Consultancy services for Design, Drawing, Construction and Supervision of water supply and sewerage infrastructure works.**

Amount put to tender: **Rs. 1,98,58,000/-.**

E.M.D. **: Rs. 2,98,000/-**

Last date and time for receipt of completed tenders will be on **18-02-2026 upto 15:00 hrs.** The technical bids is opening on **19-02-2026 at 16:00 hrs.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project)

DIPR/CP/YC/5405/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2025-26/6523 DATE: 02/02/2026

Short term E-Tender Notification (Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Re-Tenders from Registration in KPWD Department authorized by Karnataka Government for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 4059-CMIDP, amount put to tender is Rs. 300.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:1)Pre Bid Meeting Date: 16-02-2026 AT 11.00 PM, 2)Last date for queries & clarifications:17-02-2026up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids:19-02-2026up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 21-02-2026at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in& departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1756/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
KARNATAKA STATE HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
KSHIP
Project Implementation Unit, Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project
Annexe Building, KR Circle, Bengaluru-560 001

No.KSHIP-III/Pkg-3/ENV/2025-26/17 **Date: 04.02.2026**

Tender Notification (Call-2)
(on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

The Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project, Bengaluru invites bids for below mentioned works in Single stage-two cover system. Interested applicants can view and download the complete RFP document from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka.

Name of the Work: Procurement of Services for Monitoring Environmental Parameters for 3 years for KSHIP-III, Package-3, Gadag to Honnalli (Call-2)	
Scope of work: Consultant shall conduct seasonal Environmental Testing (Air, Water, Noise, Soil) at specified locations for 3 years along the KSHIP-III, Package-3, Gadag to Honnalli, analyse samples, and submit seasonal and final reports. All activities shall comply with relevant Environmental Standards.	
RFP Document available for downloading on E-Procurement portal	**Date: 04.02.2026 upto Time: 15:00 Hours**
Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications in KPP Portal	**Date: 07.02.2026 upto Time: 11:30 Hours**
Date and Time of Pre-bid meeting	**Date: 07.02.2026 Time: 11:30 Hours (PIU, KSHIP, Bangalore)**
Last date for submission of Bids	**Date: 16.02.2026 Time: 15:00 Hours**
Date and Time of opening of bids	**Date: 17.02.2026 Time: 16:30 Hours**
EMD (on KPP portal)	**INR 32,500/- (thirty two Thousand five hundred only)**

Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever. Further, any addendums/ clarifications/calendar of events regarding the bid documents will be published/ uploaded only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News-papers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal/KSHIP Website

Sd/-
Project Director
KSHIP, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5397/CCL/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, (ಪೂರ್ವ& ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇ-ಮೇಲ್- eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ–24/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.02.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
	ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು					
1	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–68/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.01.2026	04	99.60	30.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	06.02.2026 ರಿಂದ 07.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	07.02.2026 &09.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಕ್ಕೆ
2	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–69/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.02.2026	02	695.00	02.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	16.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	17.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ಕ್ಕೆ
3	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್70/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.02.2026	08	298.00	05.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	12.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.20 ವರೆಗೆ	13.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ಕ್ಕೆ
4	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್71/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.02.2026	04	197.20			
5	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್72/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.02.2026	04	114.20	06.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	20.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.20 ವರೆಗೆ	21.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ಕ್ಕೆ
	ಸರ್ವೀಸ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು					
6	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಹೆಚ್1/ ಪಪಿ/101/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.02.2026	01	67.11	02.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	09.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	10.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ಕ್ಕೆ
7	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–73/ 2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.02.2026	01	11.50	06.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	20.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.20 ರವರೆಗೆ	21.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25ಕ್ಕೆ

ಆರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1597/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್ಸಿ/2025–26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ 3rd Call Tender Notification No:11/2025-26: Dated: 28.01.2026
Ref : 1) No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ Tender Notification No:11/2025-26: Dated: 06.10.2025
2) No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ 2nd Call Tender Notification No:11/2025-26: Dated: 28.11.2025

Short Term Tender Notification-Call-3
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by KPP portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is **Rs.4225.15 Lakhs.** The amount of EMD is **Rs.42.25 Lakhs** (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **02.02.2026 to 18.02.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Technical Bid will be opened on **19.02.2026 at 17.30 hours** and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd:**13.02.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 18 Months (Including monsoon).For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL,
No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-19-02/ zenkar/2025-26

End in sight

The U.S. trade deal gives hope that the tariffs ordeal may be over soon

News of the India-United States trade deal has brought palpable relief to a lot of Indian industries, but it also comes with persistent and important questions that remain unanswered despite a press statement by India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. The initial announcement, through social media, while true to U.S. President Donald Trump's form, also marks a departure for India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Past trade deal announcements have all been made through more formal channels. The announcement of U.S. tariffs on Indian imports being cut to 18% from the existing 50% is certainly welcome. However, as of now, there is no clarity on when this would be implemented. While Mr. Trump said they would be cut "immediately", Mr. Goyal said that the details will be shared "soon". There is also considerable ambiguity over whether this is the first tranche or 'mini-deal' of a larger Bilateral Trade Agreement, a limited deal affecting only tariffs, or something in between. Mr. Trump's assertion that Mr. Modi has "agreed to stop buying Russian oil" must also be addressed by the Indian government sooner rather than later. Mr. Goyal did not touch upon this in his statement. Stopping Russian oil entirely would not only force India to find alternatives for about a third of its oil imports but would also cast a shadow over its relations with Russia, which is a long-time friend and critical supplier of defence equipment. Such a move would announce a very definite realignment for India and, in that light, deserves to be discussed in Parliament first. Similarly, buying more Venezuelan crude comes with its own refining challenges.

There is also the question of what India has committed to the U.S. in terms of tariff concessions, investments and purchase orders. Apart from making the assurance that sensitive agricultural items and dairy would be excluded, the government has been silent despite several significant assertions being made by Mr. Trump and his team. While the "final stages of detailing" are still to be completed, as Mr. Goyal has said, the light at the end of the tunnel has already buoyed Indian stock markets, bolstered the rupee, and brought especial cheer to labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, footwear, leather and engineering goods that had been hurting from the 50% tariffs. These sectors already stand to gain from the India-European Union trade deal, which Mr. Goyal has assured will come into effect this year. The tariffs they will face in the U.S. will likely still be slightly higher than those enjoyed by competitors in the South-East Asian countries due to their Most-Favoured Nation status. Yet, the new deal stands to certainly enhance their competitiveness, and the targeted announcements in the Union Budget 2026 should also help bridge this narrower gap.

Unfriendly vibes

Politics is playing an oversized role in the ICC T20 World Cup

Much water has flowed down the Indus since 1947, and yet India and Pakistan are stuck in a time warp when it comes to border conflicts and cricketing ties. The latest salvo fired by Pakistan is centred around its refusal to play against India in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup fixture in Colombo on February 15. In a bizarre turn of events, India's western neighbour has taken offence to the fact that Bangladesh was denied a neutral venue and was also scratched out of the championship. The logic being if Pakistan can be given a neutral venue in Sri Lanka, the same concession could have been granted to Bangladesh. However, Pakistan's fixtures were fixed a long time ago, while Bangladesh's sudden insistence on shifting its preliminary games outside India came too late and proved to be a logistical nightmare. But it would be simplistic to only just blame India's neighbours on either side for political posturing: this current mess affecting a global cricketing tournament was triggered from Delhi. Kolkata Knight Riders were nudged to drop Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman from its squad, and this move unleashed a catastrophic domino effect on the championship. The omission was seen as a reaction to the assault against Hindus in Bangladesh.

What India did not bargain for was the fiery reaction from Dhaka. The Bangladesh Cricket Board cited security concerns and requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) to shift its four early games away from India. The ICC refused to budge and inevitably Scotland replaced Bangladesh in Group C. Pakistan's reaction to this latest development has been theatrical. That Bangladesh, erstwhile East Pakistan, was carved out of Pakistan in 1971, remains a historical truth and it also strained ties between the two nations. However, with the latest conservative turn in Bangladeshi politics, with one former Prime Minister in asylum in India, Pakistan senses a pathway to forge an 'Islamist brotherhood' with Dhaka. This, despite the reality of Bangladesh being formed on the basis of linguistic nationalism thriving on Bengali pride. In all this political slugfest involving three neighbours, a championship is now caught in a needless crossfire. Perhaps, this is also a sobering lesson for the ICC and official broadcasters, who ensure that India and Pakistan are placed in the same group to guarantee games between the rivals so as to reap the resultant commercial windfall. Sport and politics do mix, especially in the subcontinent, and its pitfalls are starkly evident. The ICC T20 World Cup awaits its start on February 7 while Asian solidarity lies in tatters.

India's next industrial shift — electrons over molecules

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

is an energy strategist and a former Chairman of IndianOil Corporation Ltd.

For over a century, the world's factories, kilns and trucks have been powered by "molecules" – oil, coal and gas burnt for heat and motion. That age is now giving way to one where competitiveness is increasingly written in electrons: clean and reliable electricity. The nations that move the fastest from molecules to electrons will not only cut emissions but also win supply chains, capital and jobs.

On this score, China has opened a decisive lead. It is not merely adding renewables at record pace. It is redesigning industry itself to run on grid power. In 2024, close to half of China's industrial energy came as electricity. India is closer to one quarter. The gap directly affects export competitiveness and resilience to fuel price shocks.

Why 'electrons vs molecules' is the right lens

Molecules (oil, gas, LPG, coal, biofuels) are combusted directly in engines, boilers and furnaces. Electrons are delivered by the grid. Coal has already shifted role from on-site combustion to centralised power generation. More electrons mean higher automation, better process control and easier decarbonisation.

Electrification also brings a major efficiency dividend. Electric motors convert over 90% of input energy into useful work, while internal combustion engines typically convert less than 35%. This means each percentage point increase in electrons displaces more fuel molecules than raw energy numbers suggest.

Electrons spell competitiveness, ensuring clean and reliable electricity, supply chains, capital and jobs, and a cut in emissions

Industrial electrification snapshot

Green and grey electrons versus molecules

Global picture: industrial electrons and their quality

Region	Green electrons (%)	Grey electrons (%)	Total electrons (%)	Molecules (%)
China	18	29	47	53
The EU	16	18	34	66
U.S.	12	20	32	68
India	7	20	27	73
The world	12	18	30	70

Whole-economy context

Region	Green electrons (%)	Grey electrons (%)	Total electrons (%)	Molecules (%)
China	12	19	31	69
U.S.	13	19	32	68
The EU	17	17	34	66
India	8	19	27	73
The world	12	18	30	70

This snapshot is revealing. China draws nearly half its industrial energy from electrons and also has the highest share of green electrons. The United States and world average are around 12% while India lags at just 7%. China leads both in the quantity and the quality of electrons even as India remains molecule-dominated.

At the economy level, China, the U.S. and the European Union (EU) all sit near one-third electrification. But China deliberately channels far more electrons into industry than its peers. This reflects strategic intent. As the world's manufacturing hub, China ensures that factories enjoy reliable power and a rising share of clean electricity. That positioning directly strengthens export competitiveness in markets where carbon intensity is increasingly scrutinised.

China's transformation; where India is

China's playbook has been to build the grid, then build electron-first industry. China's surge did not happen by accident. Since 2010, it has poured massive capital into generation, ultra-high-voltage transmission, flexible substations and grid-scale storage. The result is a structural tilt toward electrons across industry. In steel, electric-arc-furnace (EAF) steel rose from about 44 million tonnes in 2010 to 106 million tonnes in 2024. Though only approximately 15% of output, this shift has been policy driven through scrap recycling and preferential tariffs.

In cement, China has electrified grinding mills, materials handling and deployed digital controls. Waste-heat-recovery systems typically contribute 30-35 kWh per tonne of cement. Calcination emissions remain unavoidable, making CCUS pilots essential. India can follow a similar pathway.

China's lesson is simple – electrify what can be electrified today, and reserve molecules only for processes that have no immediate alternative.

What is India's starting line like? India has doubled grid capacity in a decade and is a global leader in annual solar additions. Yet, industrial electrons remain around one-quarter of energy use, and green electrons just 7%-8% of final energy. Three factors explain this gap. First, legacy reliance on on-site combustion locks in molecule use. Second, uneven power quality and reliability discourage firms from designing all-electric processes. Third, policy focuses more on generation than on electrifying industrial processes.

This is a road map to an electron-first industrial decade. In steel, India already produces approximately 30% of steel through EAFs, as compared to approximately 70% in the U.S. Improving scrap collection, standardisation and trading platforms can lift this share rapidly. Renewable-linked EAF incentives are essential, especially with the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) targeting steel.

In cement, support pilots of electrified kilns, large-scale waste-heat recovery and carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) hubs. Target a 20% reduction in molecule use per tonne this decade while preparing CCUS.

On micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), most MSMEs run on coal boilers and diesel gensets. Transition requires concessional finance for electric boilers and induction furnaces, pooled procurement of renewable power purchase agreements, and technical assistance.

When it comes to digitalisation, this must be embedded in new industrial clusters. Advanced controls reduce power waste, enable demand response, and generate auditable carbon data demanded by global buyers.

Why does this matter beyond climate?

First, competitiveness as global buyers increasingly demand low-carbon manufacturing. Green electrons embedded in supply chains decide contract outcomes.

Second, security. Shifting heat and motion to domestically produced electricity reduces exposure to imported oil and gas price shocks.

Third, sovereignty. Industry can locate based on skills and logistics, not fuel availability.

The new industrial race

The global race is not just electrons versus molecules, but also about green electrons versus grey electrons. China has acted strategically. Although its economy-wide electrification (31%) is similar to the U.S. (32%) and the EU (34%), it prioritised industry – nearly half of industrial energy is electrified, with a higher green share than peers. This design gives China a durable manufacturing edge.

India must absorb this lesson. Without a rapid rise in green electrons, India risks CBAM penalties and lost export opportunities, but with bold action, it can seize the initiative.

Policy must aim not just for megawatts of renewables, but for megawatt-hours actually flowing into industry. India should launch a national mission on industrial electrification, significantly raise annual grid investment, mandate electrification in new industrial parks, and provide targeted MSME finance.

The next industrial revolution will be written in electrons, not molecules. India must ensure that it is not left behind.

AI's next investment cycle belongs to applications

Arindam Goswami

is a Research Analyst in the High Tech Geopolitics Programme at The Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru

The artificial intelligence (AI) industry has reached a crossroads. For years, companies poured money into infrastructure such as data centres, chips and underlying models. Now, the big question is not about AI working, but whether it can be profitable. The solution lies in concrete AI applications, and not just having more training or larger GPU clusters.

AI infrastructure versus AI applications

In 2025, companies spent around $320 billion on AI infrastructure. Despite this huge investment, foundation model businesses have thin profit margins. High inference costs cut into revenue and competition keeps prices down. For instance, OpenAI reached $13 billion in annualised revenue by August 2025 but still lost $5 billion in 2024. This approach is not sustainable; it is a short-term fix supported by venture capital and corporate money hoping for better returns.

The story is different for AI applications. In 2025, businesses spent $19 billion on AI applications, making up more than half of all generative AI spending. This is over 6% of the total software market, reached just three years after ChatGPT was launched. More importantly, this spending proves real market demand: companies are no longer only testing AI. They are using it widely. At least 10 AI products now bring in over $1 billion in annual recurring revenue, and 50 products make more than $100 million.

Meta's $2 billion purchase of Manus in December 2025 shows this shift. Manus, a Singapore startup, launched its AI agent just nine months earlier and quickly reached $125 million in annual revenue by supplying a simple but effective AI product that gets tasks done – not just talks about them – thus proving both technical ability and business success.

Investors want companies with real customers, not just technology. By the third quarter of 2025, there were 265 private equity deals involving AI applications, a 65% increase from the previous year, and 78% were add-on acquisitions for existing portfolio companies. Strategic mergers and acquisitions in AI hit record highs by Q3, with deal values up 242% from the year before.

AI profits will come from real applications

Where the real value is

Real value is emerging in the departmental AI segment. In 2025, coding tools made up $4 billion of the $7.3 billion departmental AI market, making them the largest segment. Half of all developers now use AI coding tools every day, a number which rises to 65% in top-performing companies. When ServiceNow bought Moveworks or Nvidia purchased several AI startups, these were not infrastructure deals. They were investments in companies that help customers achieve real business results with AI.

The foundation model landscape itself tells the application story. Anthropic now commands 40% of enterprise LLM spending, up from 24% last year and 12% in 2023, while OpenAI's enterprise share fell to 27% from 50% in 2023. Anthropic did this by dominating coding applications, where it holds a market share of 54% compared to OpenAI's 21%. Applications drive infrastructure adoption and foundation models, not the other way around. Morgan Stanley reports that generative AI reached a 34% contribution margin in 2025, its first profitable year, and this could rise to 67% by 2028 as infrastructure costs fall and efficiency improves. However, most of these profits go to companies selling complete solutions, not just raw computing power.

Private investors now have to decide which use cases will create the next wave of real value, not just add a simple interface to ChatGPT without real value. But solutions built for specific verticals such as health care, law, finance and manufacturing (those that are deeply integrated into workflows, use unique data, and become essential to operations) are the businesses that are worth serious investment.

The free market distributes resources well when investors focus on fundamentals, beyond mere stories. Revenue, customer retention, growth rates and paths to profitability matter again. Right now, circular financing obscures true demand. For instance, of Microsoft's reported Azure AI revenue, quite a lot comes from OpenAI's spending on compute at heavily discounted rates that essentially cover only Microsoft's costs. Applications break this pattern because they generate revenue from outside the circular financing loop.

Core issues

For governments, the next phase will raise tough questions about competition, especially as foundation model providers begin to build their own applications. When OpenAI launches coding tools or Anthropic develops enterprise solutions, it puts pressure on independent application builders who do not have the same infrastructure advantages. Copyright issues are also becoming more important as the source of training data becomes a key legal concern. Privacy rules will need to adapt to address AI agents that access large amounts of personal and business information.

Policymakers should not hurry into strict regulations. The application layer needs room to experiment, fail and improve until it finds product-market fit. But still, rules about competition, especially reviews of acquisitions that prevent big companies from buying and shutting down potential rivals, are important. The trend of acqui-hires (where startups are bought mainly for their staff and then closed) often leaves employees stranded and can hurt the energy and the innovation that the sector needs.

The Internet was not monetised by selling bandwidth. It was monetised by building applications that made bandwidth valuable. AI will follow the same trajectory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tariffs reduced

The decision by the U.S. President Donald Trump to reduce the U.S.'s tariff on India to 18% (Front page, February 3), all of a sudden, stems not from New Delhi's decision to reduce oil imports from Russia, which it had already committed to the U.S. The perception is that it arises from the fact that New Delhi has entered into an extensive and exclusive trade agreement with the European Union. This agreement is a master stroke by New Delhi which appears to have made the U.S. clear its hazy vision.

A.V. Narayanan,
Chennai

The development spells hope and augurs well for the bilateral relationship between the two countries. However, there is no clarity on whether the tariff imposed for Russian oil purchases has been removed or not.

It is time that the America administration removes the tariff hurdles and lets relations between the two great democracies get back to normal.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Frankly speaking, this nonagenarian quill-driver is of the opinion that India has been weak in dealing with the U.S. The American President is on cloud nine proudly proclaiming that 'we agreed to a trade deal'. But what sort of an 'amazing relationship' is this?

India can be a friend of America but not a factotum to the U.S. at any cost whatsoever.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

The cryptic announcement by the U.S. comes as a matter of immense relief, but marks yet another twist in the 'blow hot, blow cold' relations between the two nations. However, the caveats appear to be a glaring instance of direct intervention in the internal affairs of our country. Given the high degree of unpredictability when it comes to dealing with Mr. Trump, India needs to remain ever vigilant and tread with utmost caution while negotiating with Uncle Sam. The deal appears to be shrouded in mystery and the government must come up with a detailed/elaborate explanation.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

The Opposition's remark about the Prime Minister and the trade deal is jarring and emblematic of reflexive political negativity. At a time when economic diplomacy warrants institutional restraint and strategic sobriety, such personalised commentary trivialises the complexity of bilateral negotiations. It is widely recognised that the Centre resisted the coercive trade architecture sought earlier by the Trump administration.

N. Sadhasiva Reddy,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

There is no case for scrapping MPLADS funds

Sanjay Kumar
Professor and election analyst

Arindam Kabir
Researcher with Lokniti-CSDS

Harshvardhan Singh Rathore
Student of Jindal School of International Affairs who is interning with Lokniti-CSDS

Recently, a controversy broke out over the use of MPLADS funds. Launched in December 1993, MPLADS, or Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India. It enables Members of Parliament to recommend developmental projects focusing on creating durable community assets (such as roads, school buildings, and water facilities) in their constituencies.

The case at hand

Last month, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged that three Congress MPs from Rajasthan had misused the MPLADS funds. The party claimed that Brijendra Singh Ola of Jhunjhunu had allocated ₹25 lakh, Rahul Kaswan of Churu had allocated ₹50 lakh, and Sanjana Jatav of Bharatpur had allocated ₹45 lakh for developmental work in the Kaithal district of Haryana, instead of utilising the funds for developmental work within their constituencies in Rajasthan. This, the BJP argued, ran contrary to the core objective of MPLADS. It raised concerns about the appropriateness of allocating public funds across State boundaries. The party further alleged that the allocations were politically motivated, as Kaithal is the Assembly constituency of Aditya Surjewala, son of Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala.

The Congress rejected this charge of impropriety. Mr. Ola said that the allocations were made within the framework of existing MPLADS guidelines (2023), which state that elected MPs can recommend eligible works up to a limit of ₹50 lakh in a financial year outside their constituency/State, except in cases of natural calamities. (In the event of a "calamity of severe nature" in any part of the country, an MP can recommend works up to a maximum of ₹1 crore.) He also accused BJP MPs of having previously used MPLAD funds for questionable purposes.

The debate over the rationale of this scheme is not new. While critics argue that MPLADS funds are poorly utilised and should be discontinued, supporters of the scheme argue that funds should continue to be given as MPs need them for carrying out developmental work.

Use of funds

The MPLAD Scheme enables each MP to recommend developmental projects worth ₹5 crore annually, usually within their own constituency. According to data from the live MPLADS dashboard (mplads.mospi.gov.in), which is updated as projects progress, during the ongoing 18th Lok Sabha, ₹5,486 crore has been allocated for MPLADS funds. Of this, ₹1,453.69 crore has been spent so far. Many developmental works are still under way.

During the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024), ₹4,837.87 crore was allocated for MPLADS funds, of which ₹3,639.53 crore was reported as spent. Of the total 96,211 works recommended to be carried out, 41,143 were completed. While nearly half the works were not completed, 75.23% of the allocated budget was spent. The share of the total allocated budget that remained unspent could be attributed to inactivity during at least two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data suggest that the MPLADS funds were used well in previous years as well. During the 16th Lok Sabha (2014-2019), only 8.7% funds remained unused. In the 15th Lok Sabha (2009-2014), this share was was much lower (3.47%). And in the 14th Lok Sabha (2004-2009), only 0.99% remained unused.

While it is true that some MPs may not have been able to use their MPLADS funds to the fullest capacity for developmental work, that cannot be treated as the dominant trend. In fact, there are notable examples of MPs who have fully utilised their MPLADS allocations and it is worth highlighting them.

While some MPs may not have been able to use their MPLADS funds to the fullest capacity, that cannot be treated as the dominant trend

According to a report in October 2025, Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal (Rajya Sabha, Punjab) emerged as the top spender among Punjab's Rajya Sabha MPs, having utilised ₹9.34 crore of his allocation of ₹14.72 crore (over 63%). Mr. Seechewal had primarily utilised his funds to address water scarcity in villages.

Iqra Choudhary, the Samajwadi Party MP for Kairana, has been appreciated by many for maintaining a fully updated MPLADS profile with geotagged images. This exemplifies transparency and enables a citizen to easily verify what work was done and where.

In the 17th Lok Sabha, Tejasvi Surya (Lok Sabha MP from the BJP representing Bengaluru South) spent ₹19.36 crore, according to an analysis by Bangalore Political Action Committee. By also asking the highest number of questions in the Lok Sabha, he emerged as a top performer among Bengaluru city MPs.

Abhishek Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress MP from Diamond Harbour, was cited in a report for having the highest number of project completions among West Bengal MPs. He completed 173 works and spent ₹6.13 crore.

No case for discontinuation

There is therefore no case for discontinuing the MPLADS Scheme or for rethinking or reducing the amounts. A better approach for improvement would be to organise short workshops with consultants, where MPs are guided on how to effectively utilise their MPLADS funds for development purposes.

After all, MPs know the importance of utilising MPLADS funds. Expenditure on developmental projects within their constituencies addresses local needs and gives them political benefits. And it is when people truly benefit that MPs have a greater chance of getting re-elected.

Why the BJP struggles in Tamil Nadu

Tamil religiosity functions outside the ideological framework of the Sangh Parivar

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
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In theory, Tamil Nadu should have been fertile ground for the BJP and the Sangh Parivar to take root. The State's cultural landscape includes the Bhakti movement, temples, a vast body of devotional literature, and Sangam poetry that praises several deities. Despite the rationalist movement, a majority of the people are believers. Even several politicians who benefited from 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy's Dravidian movement continue to practise faith in their personal lives. In fact, the few leaders who remain committed to Periyar's hardcore ideology have been unable to persuade their own families to follow it fully.

Yet, the BJP has failed to convert religious Hindus into political Hindus in Tamil Nadu. This is because the socio-religious tradition of the region – from the Bhakti movement to the Self-Respect Movement – has been deeply anti-Brahmin and hostile to Brahminical rituals and Sanskritic modes of worship.

There has also long been resistance among Tamils to viewing themselves primarily through the homogenising category of 'Hindu'. Internal sectarian identities have often been stronger than any pan-Hindu consciousness. The Supreme Court's decision to appoint a retired judge to mediate the Vadakalai-Tenkalai dispute among Vaishnavites at the Varadaraja Perumal Temple in Kanchipuram underlines this fragmentation. The antagonism between Shaivites and Vaishnavites has been no less intense.

The Dravidian movement itself has its roots in the historical conflict between Brahmins and Vellalas. The Vellalas, a land-holding community with expertise in agriculture, were predominantly Shaivites. The intellectual foundation of the Dravidian movement was laid largely by educated Vellalas who were anti-Brahmin.

The historian, A. R. Venkatachalapathy, in Dravida Iyakkamum Vellalarum, notes that while several Vellala scholars supported the Self-Respect Movement, they were furious when the magazine Kudi Arasu, run by Periyar, published a series of articles ridiculing the Periyapuranam, the poetic hagiography of the 63 Shaivite saints. This episode reveals the limits of Vellala support for radical rationalism when it encroached upon Shaivite devotional tradition. In its early years, the DMK itself was derisively referred to as the Dravida Mudaliar Kazhagam – a criticism of the strong presence of Mudaliars, a community ranked just below Brahmins in the traditional social hierarchy, in the party.

Alongside these developments, a distinct intellectual tradition emerged among the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Tamil Nadu. Pandit Iyothee Thass was a formidable scholar who articulated a radical critique of caste and religion. Another prominent SC leader, Swami Sahajananda, while aware that the core structure of Hinduism rested on the varna system, nevertheless remained a practising Hindu and even spoke against the consumption of beef. These examples complicate any simplistic narrative that equates anti-caste politics with a rejection of religious belief.

What then worked against the BJP – and continues to keep it at a distance in Tamil Nadu – was the emergence of the AIADMK as a major political force. M.G. Ramachandran (MGR), the founder of the AIADMK, was a devoted follower of the goddess, Mookambika, and popularised the deity across Tamil Nadu. Jayalalithaa even sent bricks to Ayodhya for the construction of the Ram temple. In effect, they neutralised the BJP's appeal by occupying the space of "soft Hindutva" within a Dravidian political framework.

Had MGR remained within the DMK, the absence of the AIADMK from the political landscape might have enabled the Congress to function as a viable opposition and even capture power. In such a scenario, the BJP could have more easily displaced the Congress and occupied that space. Instead, the AIADMK foreclosed this possibility, leaving the BJP without a clear ideological or electoral opening.

By preferring a status quo approach to the caste system, the BJP has failed to reflect the ethos of Tamil Nadu. When there were demands for performing pujas in Tamil and for the appointment of non-Brahmins as priests, BJP leaders opposed them.

The BJP-led Central government has also failed to proactively implement major development schemes in the State. It has been unable to turn the tables on the Dravidian parties, which have a strong organisational base and deep cultural legitimacy.

Has the 16th Finance Commission sidelined the States?

Despite a rare consensus among States, the Commission has aligned with the Centre's priorities

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Sambavi Parthasarathy

The 16th Finance Commission (FC)'s vertical devolution recommendations prioritise the needs of the Centre over the realities of States. By merely acknowledging, rather than heeding, States' fiscal pressures, the FC has taken a distinctly conservative stance.

To grasp the underlying tensions, we must first look deeper into the structural issues. The 16th FC has maintained the vertical devolution rate at 41%, representing the States' share of the divisible pool. Crucially, this divisible pool excludes cesses, surcharges, and collection costs, meaning its total volume is dictated by the Centre's tax strategy. By favouring cesses and surcharges over standard tax instruments, the Centre effectively shrinks the shareable revenue; conversely, a shift back to traditional taxation would expand it.

Data show the way the present regime has gone about it. **Chart 1** is a simplified representation of the divisible pool. Between 2013 and 2019, for every ₹100 collected by the Centre, about ₹93-95 was collected as taxes and duties that form the divisible pool; the remaining ₹5-7 was collected as cesses and surcharges, including the expenditure incurred in collecting these taxes. In 2021-22, for every ₹100 collected, ₹86.5 was collected as taxes and duties, while the cesses and surcharges component increased to ₹13.5. For 2025-26, the Centre is expected to collect ₹89 as taxes and duties and ₹11 as cesses and surcharges. The GST compensation cess was not included in this analysis, as it was collected to compensate the States for revenue loss due to the implementation of GST.

Let us juxtapose the figures: post-2019, the cesses and surcharges component has nearly doubled from ₹5-7 to ₹11-13.5 for every ₹100 collected. Notably, the 16th FC has also come to the same conclusion: "In 2011-12, this non-shareable portion of revenues was 1.1% of GDP, and the divisible pool was 9.1%. By 2023-24, the non-shareable portion had expanded to 2.2% of GDP while the divisible pool stood at 9.4%."

Further evidence of this is also seen in **Charts 2A** and **2B** which are based on absolute collections data presented in Parliament on Tuesday. The money collected as cesses by the Centre – excluding GST compensation cess – increased from ₹44,688 crore in FY15 to ₹3,52,650 crore in FY22 and is expected to be around ₹2,51,206 crore in FY26. Similarly, surcharges collected have risen from ₹15,702 crore in FY15 to ₹40,758 crore in FY22 and is expected to be around ₹1,72,500 crore in FY26.

This unbridled rise in cesses and surcharges means that the share of the divisible pool in the Centre's Gross Tax Revenue (including the GST compensation cess) is expected to remain below 90% for the sixth consecutive year **(Chart 3)**. In contrast, between FY13 and FY18, this share remained consistently above 93%. While the debate rages over whether to maintain, raise, or lower the vertical devolution rate of 41%, the underlying divisible pool is shrinking because the Centre is increasingly collecting revenue through cesses and surcharges.

As many as 18 States – including Odisha, Haryana, and Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu – have demanded an increase in vertical devolution from 41% to 50%. Most other States have advocated for a more moderate increase to 45% or 48%. In stark contrast, the Centre called for a "moderation in tax devolution". While the 16th FC kept the rate unchanged in an apparent attempt to balance these competing demands, the reasoning provided suggests that maintaining the status quo primarily serves the Centre's interests.

First, the FC notes that the Constitution does not permit a cap on cesses and surcharges. It argues that the Centre requires these funds for emergencies such as war, famine, and pandemics, concluding that imposing a limit would be "imprudent". Interestingly, the FC simultaneously acknowledges that long-term reliance on these levies is "undesirable", warning that if the Centre continues to favour them, it may "lose interest in standard instruments of taxation", an outcome detrimental to States' interests. Furthermore, the FC points to "recent shifts in the external security and defence environment" as a justification for increased defence spending, while asserting that the Centre has demonstrated a "high degree of effectiveness" in infrastructure building, necessitating greater financial support. Also, it maintains that the current distribution of tax revenues "gives States sufficient resources to discharge their constitutional responsibilities". It concludes by suggesting that the resolution lies in a mutual agreement between the Centre and the States, whereby the Centre voluntarily transitions a large part of its revenue collection from cesses and surcharges back into the divisible pool of regular taxes.

The FC's interpretation of the fiscal landscape ultimately raises more questions than it answers. First, could the architects of the Constitution have ever envisioned such a disproportionate rise in cesses and surcharges? Second, by declaring a cap on cess as "imprudent," has the FC not effectively forced the Centre to draw its own boundary, by refusing to play mediator? Third, doesn't the claim that the Centre demonstrates efficiency in infrastructure ignore the fact that high-performing States are getting the raw end of the bargain? Finally, if the States truly possess "sufficient" resources, why have nearly all of them – regardless of political affiliation – unanimously demanded a larger share?

Status quo in States' share

The data for the charts were sourced from the Rajya Sabha Questions and Answers, 16th Finance Commission report and CAG reports

Chart 1: For every ₹100 collected by the Centre, how much ₹ is collected as taxes & duties and cesses & surcharges?

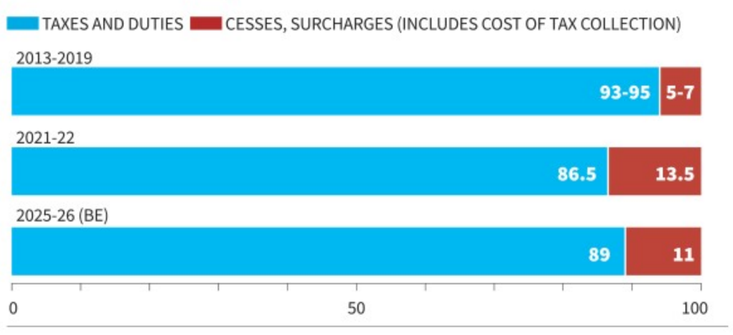


Chart 2: Cesses and surcharges collected over the years. Figures in ₹ lakh crore

Data for the first chart does not include Goods and Services tax compensation cess

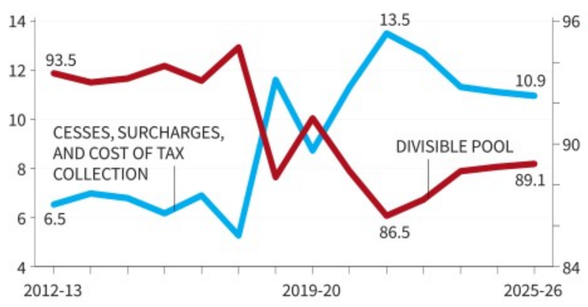


Chart 3: Consistent rise in the share of cesses and surcharges has meant that the Finance Commissions's recommendations have been rendered less effective

Figures presented are as a % of gross tax revenue. The figures for 2024-25 are revised estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget estimates

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1976

'Wages by cheque will keep away lenders'

New Delhi, Feb 2: The Union Labour Minister, Mr. K.V. Raghunatha Reddy, told the Lok Sabha to-day that the Government would look into the question of opening branches of banks in colliery areas, tea gardens and other places to help workers encash their wage cheques.

Mr. Reddy, who was replying to the debate on the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, assured members that payment of wages by cheque as provided for in the Bill would be purely voluntary. No employer could make payment by cheque without the authorisation of the employee.

The Bill, which has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha, sought to replace an ordinance amending the Payment of Wages Act to enable employers to make payment of wages by cheque. The Lok Sabha approved the Bill after accepting an official amendment of a technical nature.

During the discussion, members from all sides of the House except the CPI-M, welcomed the measure. They expressed the hope that the Bill would liberate workers from the clutches of money-lenders. But Mr. Dinen Bhattacharya (CPI-M) contended that the employers would try to make payment by cheque compulsory. This would lead to great hardships to the workers, he said.

Moving the Bill, Mr. Raghunatha Reddy said the Bill was designed to protect workers from the stranglehold of moneylenders. He did not agree with Mr. Dinen Bhattacharya that payment by cheque would add to the difficulties of workers.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1926

Maintaining Britain's food supply

London, Feb. 3: It is learnt that Government's plans for maintaining essential food supplies in the case of national emergency have reached an advanced stage of preparation. It is now disclosed that the Board of Trade recently circularised the wholesale food merchants regarding available stocks and sources of supply and is at present tabulating their replies and perfecting a skeleton organisation for distribution all over the country directed by twelve district officers under the central command of Postmaster-General.

From Page One

U.S. deal will not include sensitive sectors: Goyal

"Our marine exporters were facing difficulties. The textile sector had also been facing the need for reduced tariffs. This is a deal that will protect the interests of every Indian and provide huge opportunities for all the people of India, and will protect the sensitive sectors, including agriculture and dairy," the Union Minister said.

Mr. Goyal said, "It will open up huge opportunities for our labour-intensive export sectors such as textiles, apparel, plastics, home decor, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, organic chemicals, rubber goods, machinery, and aircraft components."

Trump's assertions

Mr. Goyal also sought to address questions from the Opposition as to why the deal was first announced by Mr. Trump. "The reciprocal tariff was set by the U.S., and they were the ones who had to reduce tariffs, so when they did reduce it to 18%, that news would obviously come from the U.S," he explained.

In his post on Truth Social, Mr. Trump also made several assertions about what Mr. Modi had allegedly agreed to on India's behalf. One of these was that India would buy "over $500 billion dollars [sic] worth of U.S. energy, technology, agricultural, coal, and many other products".

Khemchand Singh set to be Manipur CM

There are 37 BJP MLAs, including seven Kuki-Zo legislators, in the 60-member Assembly. Five Kuki-Zo MLAs attended Tuesday's meeting. In all, there are 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs in the Assembly.

Six MLAs in the Assembly are from the National People's Party (NPP) and five from the Naga People's Front.

Not all are on board

Though the Tuesday's meeting was attended by five Kuki-Zo MLAs, not all of them were on board.

Paolienlal Haokip, BJP MLA from Saikot who belongs to the Kuki-Zo community, told *The Hindu* that he met party leaders and told them that till there was an assurance on a political solution for the community, he would not join the government.

Over the past three days, the BJP central leadership asked all its Manipur legislators and alliance partners to be present in New Delhi for a crucial meeting. Wilubou Newmai, a BJP leader from Manipur, said, "A lot of back-channel efforts went in to bring all the communities together."

Face-off in LS over Rahul Gandhi's speech

Speaker Om Birla held meetings with both government and Opposition MPs to resolve the impasse and did not preside over the proceedings on Tuesday.

The House witnessed high drama over Mr. Gandhi's insistence on speaking about excerpts from General Naravane's unpublished book, cited in a report published by *The Caravan* magazine.

Objecting to Mr. Gandhi's move, Mr. Rijiju said the Speaker had already given a ruling on the matter on Monday, and the Opposition leader should not raise the issue repeatedly. Mr. Gandhi countered that as the Leader of the Opposition, he took objection to the term 'permission' when he had to speak. As the impasse continued, Krishna Prasad Tenneti of Telugu Desam Party (TDP), who was in the Chair, called other members to speak.

When other Opposition MPs did not speak, he called the name of TDP's Harish Balayogi. But as soon as the TDP MP started speaking, Opposition MPs rushed into the well of the House, tore papers and hurled them towards the Chair, prompting Mr. Tenneti to adjourn the House until 3 p.m.

PM is 'compromised', says Rahul amid ruckus

Speaking to presspersons in the Parliament House complex, the former Congress chief said this was the first time in history that the LoP had not been allowed to speak on the Presidential Address.

"The main thing is that our Prime Minister has been compromised," Mr. Gandhi said.

The unpublished memoir reportedly showed the Union government's indecisiveness in dealing with China during the face-off in eastern Ladakh in October 2020.

Criticising the India-U.S. deal, Mr. Gandhi said that the Centre "sold off" the blood and sweat of the farmers to U.S. interests. "The farmers of India must understand that in this trade deal, Narendra Modi *ji* has sold off your labour and blood and sweat. And that is because he is compromised now. Not just you [farmers], the entire country has been sold. That is why I am not being allowed to speak there [inside the House]," he said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is rattled. And the trade deal that had been stuck for the last four months, for some reason which Prime Minister Modi and I know, was sealed last evening," he said, claiming that Mr. Modi is under pressure from the Epstein files and U.S. case against Gautam Adani.

Manipur House must be dissolved: Cong. leader

State Congress president moves HC against the 'unconstitutional acts' of Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla; says the February 9, 2025, order effectively 'circumvented the rigours of Article 174(1)'

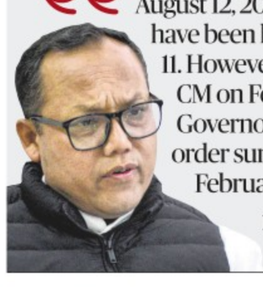
The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Congress president Keisham Meghachandra Singh has petitioned the Manipur High Court, challenging the "unconstitutional exercise of powers" by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to pave the way for President's Rule in the State on February 13, 2025.

Through the petition, filed on January 29, the Congress leader also sought the dissolution of the remainder of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly under the provisions of Article 174(2) of the Constitution of India.

The petitioner requested the Chief Justice to consider the matter through an appropriate Division Bench.

Senior advocate Ningombam Bupenda Meitei represented the petitioner, while Deputy Solicitor-General Kh. Samarjit, assisted by N. Nongdamba, appeared for the Union of India. Advocate-General Lenin Hijam and Deputy government advocate O. Raran Kumar represented the Manipur government.



> The last sitting of the House was held on August 12, 2024... next sitting ought to have been held on or before February 11. However, Biren Singh resigned as CM on February 9. On that day, the Governor declared his January 24 order summoning the Assembly for February 11 to be null and void
>
> **K. MEGHACHANDRA SINGH**
> Manipur Congress president

The court of Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma noted that the case involves the interpretation of Article 174 and referred it to the Chief Justice for placement before a Division Bench and listing of the case.

In July 2025, the State Congress chief sought a clarification from the government regarding the constitutional status of Manipur's 60-member Assembly, which had not been convened since August 2024.

President's Rule was imposed in the State four days after N. Biren Singh resigned as Chief Minister on February 9, 2025, amid the ongoing ethnic conflict.

The Congress president asked whether the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly "is still alive or already dead" or "constitutionally deemed to be dissolved from midnight" of February 11, two days before the imposition of President's Rule.

Floor test

"The last sitting of the 60-member House was held on August 12, 2024, and according to Article 174(1) of the Constitution of India, the next sitting ought to have been mandatorily held on or before February 11. However, Mr. Biren Singh resigned as the Chief Minister on February 9. On that day, the Governor declared his January 24 order summoning the Assembly for February 11 to be null and void," he wrote in a memorandum.

He pointed out that the Assembly was not in suspension at the time of the Chief Minister's resignation, and Article 174(1), which mandates that no more than six months should elapse between two sittings of a Legislative Assembly, remained applicable.

He said the Governor's February 9, 2025, order effectively "circumvented the rigours of Article 174 (1)" and further delayed the Assembly's sitting beyond the constitutionally permitted time frame. He added that any gubernatorial action or order requiring a new Chief Minister to undergo a floor test "would tantamount to the violation of Article 174(1)".

Meanwhile, the Kangpokpi District Internally Displaced Welfare Committee rejected the March 31 deadline for the resettlement of the internally displaced persons, calling it unrealistic and unworkable in the absence of basic infrastructure.

Trinamool, some poll officials behind voter harassment, says BJP

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Bengal BJP MLAs submit a memorandum to Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Monday. PTI

After weeks of insisting that the Trinamool Congress was exaggerating reports of harassment during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, the State unit of the BJP has changed its stance. It now admits that people in the State are facing harassment, but blames a section of poll officials, in collusion with the ruling Trinamool, for "deliberately" making mistakes and issuing notices to harass voters.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and several other BJP MLAs submitted a memorandum to Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Monday titled, "Deliberate harassment by a section of EROS, AEROs, and BLOs of common people in collusion with Trinamool Congress and I-PAC during SIR."

The memorandum seeks to initiate disciplinary proceedings against erring poll officials.

The BJP MLAs claimed that a section of electoral registration officers (EROs), additional electoral registration officers (AEROs), and booth-level officers (BLOs) were "deliberately making mistakes or discrepancies, such as errors in the spelling of names or surnames, and issuing notices to harass voters".

According to the BJP leaders, it has been observed in many cases that "EROs and AEROs across the State have appointed contractual employees for the scrutiny process of SIR or for issuing notices and conducting hearings, which is completely contrary to the EC guidelines".

The memorandum added that despite repeated requests from the EC to the West Bengal Chief Secretary and Finance Secretary, no data entry operators had been appointed for the SIR. During the SIR in Bihar, a sufficient number of data entry operators were appointed by the State government, it said.

Centre must act to protect Kashmiris, say J&K MLAs

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Growing cases of harassment and violence against Kashmiris residing outside Jammu and Kashmir reverberated in the J&K Assembly on Tuesday, with both the ruling National Conference (NC) and the Opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) seeking the Centre's intervention into the matter.

PDP MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para said incidents of "hate crimes" against Kashmiri students and workers outside the Union Territory were on the rise. He moved an adjournment motion seeking an "urgent discussion on the safety of Kashmiris".

'Disturbing trend'

"Hate crimes, intimidation, and physical assaults faced by members of the Kashmiri community living outside the Union Territory are deeply disturbing. These incidents have created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among families," Mr. Parra said, urging Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the Union Home Minister to take concrete steps.

NC MLAs also staged a sit-in outside the Assembly, demanding restoration of Statehood, constitutional guarantees, and an end to the harassment of Kashmiris outside J&K. "Time is appropriate to restore J&K's Statehood. We also seek the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Shah to end the harassment of Kashmiris outside the Union Territory. It has now become fashionable to target Kashmiris in States like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand," NC MLA Tanvir Sadiq said.

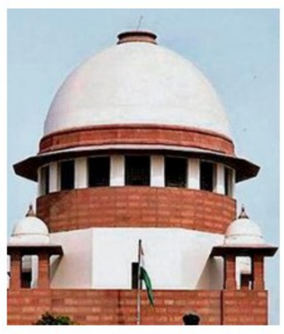
Meanwhile, former J&K Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti accused the NC of failing to raise the issue effectively. "Where are the MPs of J&K who should be raising their voices as such attacks become routine?" she said.

SC questions WhatsApp, Meta on personal data

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would not permit instant messaging platform WhatsApp and its parent company, Meta, to breach the right to privacy of millions of their "silent consumers" in India through the sharing and commercial exploitation of personal data.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, addressing Meta and WhatsApp, compared the sharing of private data to a "decent way of committing theft", saying by now "you must have taken away millions of bytes of data". WhatsApp and Meta, led by senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Amit Sibal, objected to the court's observations, saying users could 'opt out' of data sharing and that prior consent was cardinal. WhatsApp stressed that messages on its platform were end-to-end encrypted.



Justice Bagchi pointed out that the DPDP Act of 2023 covered only the factor of privacy.

Chief Justice Kant asked the online entities whether a poor street vendor or a person living in rural areas would be able to navigate the complicated and "cleverly-crafted" language of consent and be able to take an informed decision.

Value of shared data

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, who, along with Justice Vipul M. Pancholi, formed part of the Bench, said every silo of data relating to an individual – whether private or not – had value.

He pointed out that the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act of 2023, India's first legal framework for digital personal data privacy, covered only the factor of privacy. There seemed to be nothing in the law on the sharing of the data value of a consumer.

"The DPDP Act only addresses privacy. We would like to examine the rent-sharing of data. Behavioural trends and tendencies can be utilised and monetised. Your (WhatsApp's) parent company can leverage it for online advertising...," Justice Bagchi observed.

The Chief Justice gave an example of a person communicating online with his doctor about medicines, only to get advertisements or notifications about medical services minutes later.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta present in the courtroom, said "our private data is not only sold, but it is commercially exploited. We are not only consumers, but also products".

The Bench impleaded the Centre, through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, as a party in the case. Justice Bagchi said the Centre has to compare the DPDP Act and the European Union's (EU) strict online governance rules under the Digital Services Act. "The EU rules consider not only privacy but also value. I may have personal data of variously graded privacy. Privacy is lost as soon as I share certain data. Is it an acceptable jurisprudential idea that once data is shared, there is no value for that data any more?" Justice Bagchi asked.

The court was hearing petitions filed by Meta and WhatsApp against a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal decision last year that upheld a ₹213.14-crore penalty imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Posting the case for interim directions on February 9, the Chief Justice said, "You cannot take advantage of these millions of silent consumers who have no voice".

ED conducts searches in West Bengal over coal smuggling scam

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

This comes after the agency held searches at I-PAC director's residence and office in the same case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday held searches at several places in West Bengal in connection with the coal smuggling scam.

The residence of a businessman was searched in Jamuria town of Paschim Bardhaman district, where ₹65 lakh in cash was seized from the premises.

The officials also searched the house of Manoranjan Mandal, the newly appointed officer-in-charge of Budbud police station, in Durgapur City Centre. The police officer was also questioned by the ED officials. Mr. Mandal has not yet taken charge of his new post. He had earlier been posted as the officer-in-charge of Barabani police station and suspended for some time.

Several other locations in Paschim Bardhaman district were searched. Investigations have revealed that coal and sand stolen from mines were smuggled to various districts, resulting in massive financial transactions.

These searches came weeks after the ED conducted searches at the residence and office of I-PAC director Pratik Jain in Kolkata in connection with coal smuggling in the State. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had intervened during the searches on January 8.

The issue had triggered a major political controversy where allegations were made that Ms. Banerjee took away documents and devices from ED officials. The agency has approached the Supreme Court in connection with the intervention.

Jamiat moves SC against remarks by Assam CM

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has moved the Supreme Court against some public statements made by BJP leader and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, calling them "communal, deeply divisive, and contrary to the spirit of the Constitution".

Mr. Sarma is said to have made the allegedly offensive remarks in a speech on January 27 asking for harassing the *Miya* Muslims of Assam in various ways, including asking them to "cast their vote in Bangladesh, not India".

The plea filed on behalf of Mahmood Madani, president of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, through senior advocate M.R. Shamshad, urged the court to frame strict and enforceable guidelines for persons holding constitutional positions, so that public offices are not misused to spread hatred or target any community.

NSA provisions allow Wangchuk's transfer to Rajasthan: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it drew authority to shift climate activist Sonam Wangchuk from Ladakh to Rajasthan under provisions of the National Security Act, and has accorded "fair treatment" throughout his ongoing detention.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Aravind Kumar, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta referred to Section 5 of the National Security Act, 1980 which armed the "appropriate government" with the power to "regulate place and conditions of detention". Mr. Mehta said a detained person "may, by general or special order, be removed from one place of detention to another place of detention, whether within the same State or in another State".

Mr. Mehta said there was material against Mr. Wangchuk, which justified the detention order. "The material was not irrelevant," he said.

APPEAL

I am **Anushthiya**, 14 years old suffering from "Relapsed Rhadomyosarcoma". I have to undergo Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai**. The total expenditure is **Rs.7,00,000/-**. My father is a daily wage earner and our family cannot afford this huge expenditure. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**

Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org. **Anushthiya**

U.S. deal a 'big decision' that will benefit India, PM tells NDA MPs

In the first meeting of alliance MPs during Budget Session, Narendra Modi tells them that 'the world is increasingly looking at India amid uncertainties'; Rijiju says MPs are excited about conclusion of trade agreements with as many as 39 countries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Democratic Alliance's parliamentary party grouping on Tuesday felicitated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for signing trade deals with various countries recently. In reply, the Prime Minister said the world was increasingly looking at India amid uncertainties.

In the past one year, India has finalised trade agreements with the European Union, the United Kingdom, Oman, New Zealand, and the United States.

The meeting, the first of NDA MPs during the Budget Session, congratulated the newly elected BJP national president, Nitin Nabin, who was present.

According to an MP who attended the meeting, Mr. Modi said India's strength amid the uncertain global situation was being noticed. "The world is looking at India," he is reported to have said. Another MP said the Prime Minister described the India-U.S. tariff agreement as a "big decision" that would benefit the country.

On a high note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Nitin Nabin, and Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah at the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Mr. Modi commended Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting her ninth consecutive Budget, adding that it was a document that laid the road map for the country and its development to 2047, when India completes a century as a modern Independent state.

Briefing presspersons after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that MPs were excited about the conclusion of various trade agreements. "There is excitement among the MPs that these trade deals have been concluded under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. The trade deals have been signed with a total of 39 countries. This is historic. All these 39 countries are developed countries... This is historic. There has been a very good atmosphere in the country," he said.

Mr. Rijiju said the Prime Minister had given broad guidelines for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members to carry forward their parliamentary and welfare work.

"The Prime Minister said the NDA is winning one election after another due to its good work. He said election can't be won without being on the ground. We have to be on the ground and do good work for the welfare of the people," Mr. Rijiju said.

Those who attended the meeting included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Health Minister J.P. Nadda, Apna Dal leader and Union Minister Anupriya Patel, NCP leader Praful Patel, Shiv Sena leader Shrikant Shinde, Rashtriya Lok Morcha leader Upendra Kushwaha and MPs.

NDA ally TDP seeks clarity on India-U.S. trade deal; Opposition walks out of RS

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

TDP member says that only public statements have been made by both sides so far with no formal documentation

Opposition parties walked out of the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday accusing the government of failing to communicate the details of the India-U.S. trade deal, which, they noted, was first announced by Washington before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's social media post. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), an NDA ally, also sought clarification, pointing out that while U.S. President Donald Trump referred to a reciprocal tariff adjustment, he did not explicitly confirm the withdrawal of the 25% punitive duty.

Speaking during Zero Hour in the Upper House, TDP member Beeda Masthan Rao Yadav said the government should press the U.S. administration for an official notification announcing the withdrawal of the punitive duty.

Lauding Mr. Modi and the NDA government for "proactive diplomatic engagement" with the U.S. that yielded "tangible results", Mr. Yadav said, "The announcement on February 2, 2026, of an understanding to reduce the reciprocal tariff from 25% to 18% is a significant relief for Indian exporters and a strong signal of India's growing stature in global trade negotiations."

However, he flagged the continuing uncertainty due to the absence of a formal notification from the U.S. government. He noted that so far, only public statements had been made by both sides with no formal documentation. He added that while Mr. Trump's statement referred to the reciprocal tariff, it did not explicitly confirm the withdrawal of the 25% punitive duty.

Mr. Yadav further pointed out that U.S. Customs entry documents showed two separate duty codes – one for the reciprocal tariff and another for the Russia-India punitive levy, each reviewed independently until further legal clarification is issued. "I therefore appeal to the government to continue an intense dialogue with the U.S. administration to secure the formal withdrawal of the punitive duty," he said.

After Zero Hour, the Congress chief whip in the Upper House, Jairam Ramesh, said Indians had heard about the deal from Mr. Trump rather than from their own government.

Opposition MPs raised slogans accusing the government of bartering India's interests. Leader of the House J.P. Nadda criticised the Opposition's protest, accusing them of "seeing bad even in good things". Opposition MPs, except those from the Trinamool Congress, walked out. Mr. Nadda further added, "Their interest is only in creating politics out of everything, and we saw an example of that just now."

Exporters relieved, farmers upset over trade agreement

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Exporters of agriculture products, fisheries, and seafood were relieved after the announcement of the trade deal between India and the United States, but farmers expressed concern about the possible import of crops such as soya bean, cotton, maize, and wheat, and trade unions warned that the deal would hurt Indian industries and workers.

"We are back in the business now," Alex Ninan of the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) told *The Hindu*. "We are confident that with the conclusion of the trade deal and lowering of tariffs to 18%, quantum of export of seafood from India to U.S. will show an increase and soon reach back to the previous levels," said SEAI president G. Pawan Kumar.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella group of farm outfits, termed the deal as a "betrayal of the people".

Allowing zero per cent import tariff on U.S. goods is a surrender to the pressure of U.S. imperialism, the SKM said.

"This trade deal to allow Indian markets to be flooded by highly subsidised U.S. agricultural products will devastate the entire peasantry in India. The U.S. has only 18.8 lakh farmers as per the recent survey in 2024, compared to 14.65 crore operational holdings in India as per the agricultural census of 2015," the SKM said, urging farmers to join the general strike on February 12.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions said if the deal comes into effect, it will be the most deadly action against the interests of workers and peasants, and Indian economic sovereignty at large.

Trade deal: unanswered questions remain

EXPLAINER

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The announcement that the U.S. will reduce "reciprocal" tariffs on India from 25% to 18% and drop the 25% punitive tariffs for Russian oil imports, is a major relief to Indian exporters, and indicates that relations between the two countries are on the mend after a year of severe tensions.

The move on slashing U.S. tariffs was made during External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Washington to attend a Critical Minerals Ministerial meeting, his seventh visit to the U.S. since Donald Trump's election as U.S. President. It also comes just weeks after the new U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor took charge in Delhi, indicating a fresh attempt at resetting ties. However, differences remain between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's version of the agreement and Mr. Trump's version, which will need to be reconciled.

Where is the negotiated text of the trade deal?

Mr. Trump's reference to a trade deal left it unclear whether he is referring to a deal over cutting reciprocal tariffs, or to the larger "first tranche" of the India-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that has been negotiated between trade teams after Mr. Modi's visit to Washington in February 2025. As a result of the FTA, both sides were expected to drop tariffs, but no details of the FTA, or a negotiated text, have thus far been released by either government.

Tariffs to zero?

Mr. Trump's claim that India would "reduce Tariffs and Non-Tariff Barriers against the United States, to ZERO", has not been confirmed by New Delhi, nor has there been any explanation about which lines would reduce to zero. In addition, questions about market access, especially in agricultural sectors like soyabean and dairy which India has been reluctant to open, remain unanswered. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said in a post that the new U.S.-India deal will "export more American farm products to India's massive market, lifting prices, and pumping cash into rural America".

On the same page: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor in New Delhi. PTI

Indian investment in the U.S.

In his post, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Modi also "committed to buy American" with over $500 billion dollars for U.S. energy, technology, agriculture, coal, and other products. The government declined to comment on whether any such commitment has been given, but the size of the figure indicates this is meant to be done over several years, and with multiple sectors involved. It is important to remember that India-U.S. bilateral trade in goods stands at about $131 billion at present, and India's current investment in the U.S. is just over $40 billion.

Has India agreed to drop Russian oil?

In his post on Monday, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Modi had "agreed to stop buying Russian Oil, and to buy much more from the United States and, potentially, Venezuela", adding that this would help end the war in Ukraine. The Ministry of External Affairs has not responded to requests for comment on this issue. While the government insists that it has no part to play in these commercial decisions, that is contradicted by Mr. Trump's statement that Mr. Modi had agreed to cutting Russian oil.

Will India have to give concessions on Iran?

Mr. Trump has indicated that the U.S. wants India to buy Venezuelan oil in lieu of Russian oil. This may be a relief for India, but raises questions over its autonomy on important strategic decisions. The U.S. has also threatened to impose 25% tariffs on countries "doing business" with Iran, which includes India, and Washington plans to end its sanctions waiver on Indian investment in Iran's Chabahar port. In a departure from the past, the Union Budget presented on Sunday contained no allocation for Chabahar.

No word on India stopping oil purchases, says Kremlin

Press Trust of India
MOSCOW

Russia has not heard any statements from India about stopping Russian oil purchases, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

His comments came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "agreed to stop buying Russian Oil, and to buy much more from the United States and, potentially, Venezuela".

"We haven't heard any statements from New Delhi on this matter yet," Mr. Peskov said.

Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who oversees the energy sector in the Cabinet, said the government was closely monitoring the situation.

He pointed out that Russia was only seeing public statements from the U.S. regarding the possibility of India refusing Russian oil.

SIR case: West Bengal CM likely to attend court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to appear in person on Wednesday before a Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant in a case challenging the legality of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise conducted in the State.

A batch of pleas challenging the mass exclusion of electors from the voters' list of the State is listed for hearing on Wednesday. Ms. Banerjee has filed a petition in her own individual capacity against the exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India.

A gate pass for entry into the Supreme Court has been made for Wednesday, and she is expected to be present in the court room with her lawyers.

Will support any motion by Opposition to impeach CEC Gyanesh Kumar: Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday indicated that her party will be amenable to an impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar if a united Opposition moves such a motion.

The Chief Minister, however, noted that the Opposition does not have the numbers necessary to force the motion through in Parliament. "But it will be good to have it on record," she said. Ms. Banerjee, along with party national general secretary and Lok Sabha party leader Abhishek Banerjee, addressed a press conference in Delhi.

Mamata Banerjee addresses the media outside the EC office in New Delhi on Tuesday.

The two leaders were surrounded by many "SIR-affected" families from West Bengal. These families, who accompanied Ms. Banerjee to Delhi, include those who have either their names deleted from the electoral roll after being declared dead by the Election Commission and relatives of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) who died during the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise. A Trinamool delegation led by Ms. Banerjee met the Election Commission on Monday.

The CEC can be removed from office through the process of impeachment, requiring a two-thirds majority of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha present and voting for the same.

Ms. Banerjee said that the BJP defended SIR claiming that it would remove "*ghuspetiya*" or infiltrators from the electoral rolls, but so far, it had not been able to produce any evidence to back the claim. She further said that the exercise seemed to have targeted minorities. In West Bengal, 33% of the population are minorities. She asked, "Will you delete all of them?"

Opposition MPs question Centre on India-U.S. trade deal in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday asked the Union government to ensure that the India-U.S. trade deal does not impact the lives of Indian farmers.

Speaking on the second day of the discussion in the Upper House on the Motion to Thanks to President Droupadi Murmu for her address to Parliament, Opposition members questioned the government over the announcement of the deal by U.S. President Donald Trump and alleged that the Narendra Modi government succumbed to U.S. pressure.

Congress leader Rajani Ashokrao Patil said it was being pointed out that India would open its agriculture sector to the U.S. "If the government does not protect farmers, if you open their agricultural market... Mr. Trump has said that $500 billion worth of purchases are going to take place... It is essential for Parliament and the nation to know on which aspects the Prime Minister held discussions with Mr. Trump," she said. The Congress MP sought a clarification on Mr. Trump's claim that India would buy oil from the U.S. and Venezuela from now on instead of Russia. She asked if the Centre had decided to desert the country's long-term ally. Trinamool Congress MP Ritabrata Banerjee said the Union government had succumbed to economic expansionism of the U.S., accepting all terms dictated by Mr. Trump on purchases of oil.

Seeking clarity: Congress member Rajani Ashokrao Patil speaks in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. ANI

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader John Brittas said the government considered the Upper House "inferior to Elon Musk's X platform" as the deal was announced in social media when Parliament was in session.

Abdul Wahab of the Indian Union Muslim League said U.S. President announced the deal first and the country's government responded much later. "I congratulate Mr. Trump for giving us the subsidy, making it 18%. Again like Operation Sindoor he has given a timely address to our government," he said.

Countering the Opposition questions, Shiv Sena leader Milind Deora said India had secured lower tariffs than its major competitors. "The tariff imposed on China is 34%, on Bangladesh 20%, on Vietnam 20%, and on Indonesia 19%. Today, India's tariff is only 18%," he said.

INBRIEF

India enters elite group with successful missile tech test

The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully carried out the flight demonstration of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet technology from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, on Tuesday . The test was conducted at around 10.45 a.m. According to the Ministry of Defence, with this achievement, India has entered an elite group of nations possessing SFDR technology, a critical capability for the development of long-range air-to-air missiles that significantly enhance combat effectiveness and provide a decisive tactical edge against adversaries. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the Indian industry partners on the successful demonstration, describing it as a major milestone in the country's missile development programme.

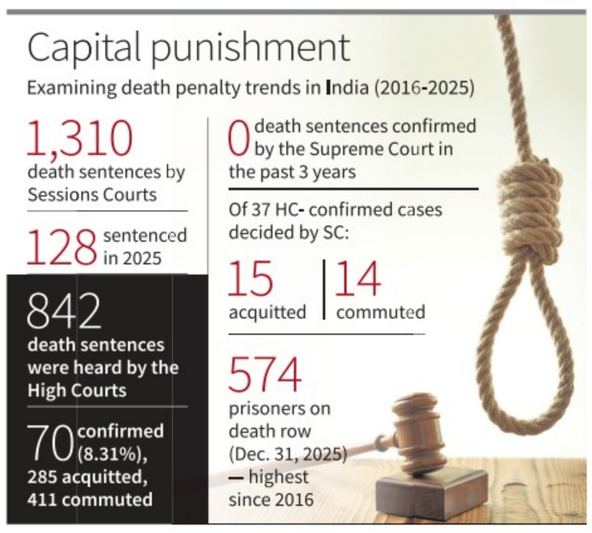
Security forces engage group of terrorists in Udhampur

The Army said on Tuesday that security forces were engaged in a firefight with a group of terrorists in the Basantgarh area of Udhampur. An Army spokesman said contact was established with the terrorists during an ongoing operation named 'Operation Kiya' around 4 p.m. The operation is being jointly carried out by personnel of the Army, the J&K Police, and the CRPF. The Army said the operation was launched following an intelligence input. "A cordon has been established. A firefight is on. The operation is in progress," the Army said.

SC has not upheld death penalty in 3 years: report

The top court acquitted 10 death row prisoners in 2025; lower courts handed down 1,310 death sentences over the past decade; high rate of acquittals raises concerns about wrongful convictions

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI


Capital punishment
Examining death penalty trends in India (2016-2025)
1,310
death sentences by Sessions Courts
128 sentenced in 2025
842
death sentences were heard by the High Courts
70 confirmed (8.31%), 285 acquitted, 411 commuted
0 death sentences confirmed by the Supreme Court in the past 3 years
Of 37 HC- confirmed cases decided by SC:
15 acquitted
14 commuted
574
prisoners on death row (Dec. 31, 2025) — highest since 2016

The Supreme Court has not confirmed a single death penalty in the past three years, according to an annual statistics report on death penalties in India, published by the Square Circle Clinic, a criminal justice initiative at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

In fact, in 2025, the top court acquitted 10 prisoners who had been on death row, the highest number of such acquittals in the past decade.

The report, which examined death penalty trends across India over the past 10 years, found that the sessions courts handed down 1,310 death sentences nationwide between 2016 and 2025.

"Despite growing judicial scepticism at higher levels," the lower courts sentenced 128 individuals to death in 2025 alone, the report said.

High rate of acquittals

Of the 1,310 death sentences, 842 verdicts were handed down by the High Courts, of which 70 – that is, just 8.31% – were confirmed. The High Courts acquitted 285 people on death row, while 411 death sentences were commuted.

The Supreme Court's stance has been even more restrictive, with no death sentence confirmed in the past three years.

Also, in cases where sessions courts imposed death sentences which were confirmed by the High Courts, not a single sentence has yet been affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Of the 37 such death sentences which have been decided by the Supreme Court, 15 resulted in acquittal and 14 were commuted. "What is starkly clear from these figures is that errors at Sessions Courts are not only leading to wrongful imposition of death sentence but are also resulting in wrongful convictions. The high rate of acquittals by the appellate judiciary requires a serious examination of how Sessions Courts deem a case worthy of even a conviction," the report said.

The report also showed that India had 574 prisoners – 550 men and 24 women – on death row as of December 31, 2025. The average time spent on death row before acquittal was over five years, with some prisoners languishing for nearly a decade before being exonerated.

However, 138 individuals were also removed from death row during the year through acquittals, commutations, or remand orders

One of the report's most alarming findings concerns procedural violations at the sentencing stage.

Despite clear guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in *Manoj vs State of Madhya Pradesh*, which mandate psychological evaluations, prison conduct reports, and mitigation hearings – which were elevated to a fair trial right requirement in *Vasanta Sampat Dupare vs Union of India* – in 2025, nearly 95% of death sentences in 2025 were imposed without compliance.

Sentencing hearings were frequently conducted within days of conviction, leaving little scope for meaningful defence representation, the report said.

Another emerging trend is the growing use of life imprisonment without remission as an alternative to the death penalty.

'Global aid cuts could lead to 22.6 million additional deaths'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

ODA has helped reduce child mortality by 39%; prevent HIV/AIDS deaths by 70%

The drop in global aid could lead to 22.6 million additional deaths by 2030 across 93 low- and middle-income countries, including 5.4 million children under the age of five, warned a new peer-reviewed study by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), published in the *Lancet Global Health* on Tuesday.

The analysis showed that Sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for 38 of the 93 countries analysed, is particularly at risk, and with 21 of the countries in Asia (including India), 12 in Latin America, 12 in West Asia and North Africa, and 10 in Europe, severe cuts to official development assistance (ODA) could be felt globally.

ODA achievements

Over the course of 2002 to 2021, the ODA helped reduce child mortality by 39%, prevented HIV/AIDS deaths by 70%, and achieved a 56% reduction in deaths from both malaria and nutritional deficiencies. Additionally, it improved various global health outcomes in these 93 countries, which are home to 75% of the world's population.

In 2024, international aid fell for the first time in six years, and the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany significantly reduced their ODA contributions for the first time in nearly 30 years. These cuts sparked the need to understand what this could mean at the human level for communities all over the world, the study said.

"Our analyses show that development assistance is among the most effective global health interventions available," said Davide Rasella, coordinator of the study, ICREA Research Professor at ISGlobal and at the Brazilian Institute of Collective Health.

"Asia's scale means that when health systems fail, the human cost is immense,and in 21 countries across the region, decades of development gains are now at risk of being reversed," said Deepali Khanna, senior vice- president and head of Asia, The Rockefeller Foundation, which supported the study.

Air India plane flown after physical checks, no abnormal parameters noticed: DGCA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Air India officials say it has begun fleet-wide checks of fuel control switches.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner flight from London to Bengaluru which reported a fuel control switch glitch, took off on Sunday after the crew carried out a physical check of the switch and found no abnormal parameters during start of the engine or thereafter, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Tuesday.

The fuel control switch of the left engine of the Dreamliner aircraft VT-ANX, which operated the flight AI132 that had more than 200 people aboard, did not latch on the 'RUN' position twice during the engine start at London Heathrow airport, but was properly locked in the 'RUN' position on the third attempt.

The detailed statement from the aviation regulator explaining the sequences related to the Dreamliner came against the backdrop of concerns in certain quarters over the aircraft operating the flight despite the fuel control switch issue.

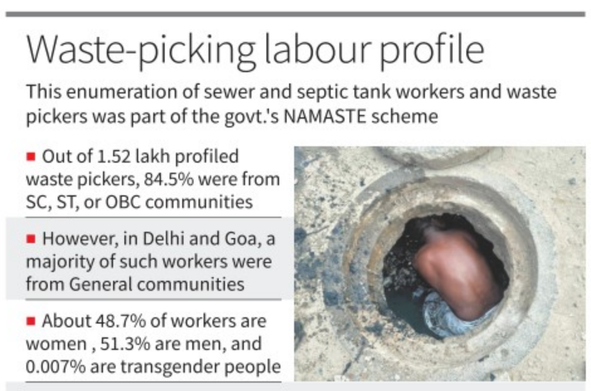
Air India has started inspection of the fuel control switches of its Boeing 787 fleet following the incident, sources have said.

Air India's senior vice-president for flight operations, Manish Uppal, has told Boeing 787 pilots that the airline has initiated a fleet-wide re-inspection of the aircraft's fuel control switches and the airline's engineering team has escalated the matter to Boeing for priority evaluation, according to sources.

"In the interim, while we await Boeing's response, our engineers - out of an abundance of caution - have initiated precautionary fleet-wide re-inspection of the Fuel Control Switch (FCS) latch to verify normal operations," he said in an email on Tuesday.

84% waste-pickers from SC, ST, OBC groups: govt.

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI


Waste-picking labour profile
This enumeration of sewer and septic tank workers and waste pickers was part of the govt.'s NAMASTE scheme
Out of 1.52 lakh profiled waste pickers, 84.5% were from SC, ST, or OBC communities
However, in Delhi and Goa, a majority of such workers were from General communities
About 48.7% of workers are women , 51.3% are men, and 0.007% are transgender people
On Tuesday, the Social Justice Ministry said that 859 people had died due to cleaning of sewers and septic tanks since 2014

The Union government on Tuesday released data for the first time on the ongoing enumeration of waste-pickers across the country, showing that a total of 1.52 lakh such workers had been profiled and validated so far in urban areas of 35 States and Union Territories. At the national level, 84.5% of overall waste-pickers were from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the Other Backward Classes, while 10.7% were from communities in the General category.

At the State and Union Territory level, there were some outliers, where waste-pickers from the General category constituted a significant majority. For instance, in Delhi and Goa, those from General category communities outnumbered those from the SC, ST, and OBC communities put together. In West Bengal, General category workers constituted 42.4% of all those profiled and validated.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment tabled the data in Parliament on Tuesday. The enumeration exercise is part of the Ministry's NAMASTE scheme. It is enumerating sewer and septic tank workers and waste-pickers across the country, to have them formally recognised by urban local bodies and provide them with protective equipment. The scheme aims at eradicating deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

The data showed that a total of 1.52 lakh waste-pickers had been profiled and validated by urban local bodies as part of this exercise till January 23 this year. Of these, about 48.7% are women (74,427), 51.3% men (78,374), and 0.007% transgender people (12).

Social category data showed that of the total workers profiled, 60.3% were from the SC communities (92,089), 13.7% from the OBC communities (20,954), and 10.5% from the ST communities. It also said 16,329 waste-pickers (10.7%) were from communities classified under the General category.

In Delhi and Goa, however, the majority of waste-pickers were from the General category. In Delhi, 4,289 of more than 6,500 waste-pickers profiled were from that category, and the case was similar in Goa, where, of the total 1,286 workers profiled, 729 were from General category communities.

Under the NAMASTE scheme, waste-pickers have been defined as people "informally" engaged in "collection and recovery of reusable and recyclable solid waste from streets, bins, material recovery facilities, processing and waste disposal facilities for sale to recyclers directly or through intermediaries to earn their livelihood".

'Other' category

The data, tabled by Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale, also said that 7,402 workers were from "Other" communities. The data was released in response to a question from Erode MP K.E. Prakash from the DMK on the NAMASTE scheme, which had recently included enumeration of waste-pickers in its objectives.

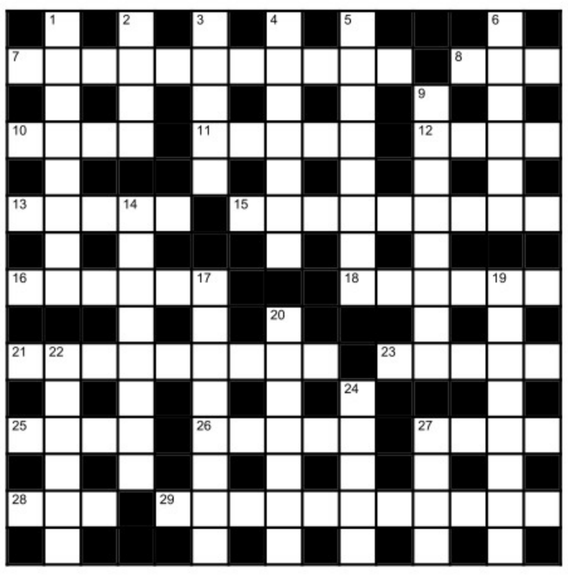
The scheme has so far enumerated about 89,000 sewer-entry workers and septic tank workers, 95.8% of them men. Parliament data from December 2024 showed that among the sewer and septic tank workers profiled till then, 91.95% were from SC, ST, and OBC backgrounds, while about 8.05% were from General category communities. However, State-level data of that time has not yet been made available.

TH CROSSWORD + 14708

(set by Hypatia)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Had to take medication in vehicle for grub (11)
8 Your old teacher's heading on vacation..happy (3)
10 Elderly grandma going home tired at last (4)
11 Fine note played frequently (5)
12 Host member close to society (4)
13 Hints tackling reading mistakes (5)
15 Hatred spread through cold gangster in church (9)
16 Husband removing lead from dog's bowl (6)
18 Return live in time for argument (6)
21 D-shape discontinued gradually (6,3)
23 Demanded rum, sake and unlimited vodka (5)
25 Press covering UN, regret occasionally (4)
26 Children's magazine (5)
27 Some help us help Ram? (4)
28 Flash drive (3)
29 Profession of outstanding field work? (11)

Down

1 Animal climbing tree biting hairy organ (8)
2 Medieval European's alcoholic drink, basically! (4)
3 Tip of porcelain filling in a minute item of cutlery (5)
4 Excited about blankets behind American plane (7)
5 Took off and had food including aperitif, at the start (8)
6 That man boring school boy spending day in hill station (6)
9 Heard reverend father gambles in irrecoverable obligations (3,5)
14 Cultivated from river in New Delhi, ending in Ganges (8)
17 Women, ultimately accepted, signed up for matches (8)
19 Value greatly found in nitre as urea (8)
20 Interest virgin in short outfit (7)
22 Brave ants marching out of chain store building (6)
24 Started changing name for married Muslim lady (5)
27 Weep for devoutness, disheartened (4)

SUDOKU

	5		6					4
1		3				5		
		9		8	7	1		6
		5	9	6				8
9				4	8	3		
5		6	1	3		7		
		1				8		3
3					9		5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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Solution to previous puzzle

H	O	M	E	S	P	U	N	■
Y	■	Y	■	E	■	N	■	F
P	O	F	A	C	E	D	■	R
I	■	O	■	T	■	E	■	O
N	A	O	M	I	■	R	E	M
G	■	T	■	O	■	T	■	B
■	■	■	I	N	A	H	E	A
I	■	U	■	A	■	E	■	D
C	O	M	P	L	I	C	A	T
E	■	B	■	■	■	A	■	O
C	O	R	K	S	C	R	E	W
H	■	E	■	E	■	P	■	O
E	L	L	I	P	S	E	■	R
S	■	L	■	I	■	T	■	S
T	I	A	R	A	S	■	H	E

B	L	A	M	E	D	■	■	■
■	I	■	A	■	I	■	■	■
R	U	M	P	L	E	S	■	■
■	P	■	D	■	U	■	■	■
I	S	S	I	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	V	■	I	■	■	■
R	T	B	E	A	T	■	■	■
R	■	S	■	E	■	■	■	■
A	T	I	O	N	■	■	■	■
U	■	M	■	S	■	■	■	■
S	W	E	E	P	■	■	■	■
E	■	L	■	R	■	■	■	■
R	A	L	L	Y	■	■	■	■
S	E	■	O	■	L	■	■	■
H	E	L	D	S	W	A	Y	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	6	3	8	2	4	7	5
7	2	4	5	1	9	3	6	8
3	5	8	6	4	7	2	1	9
8	7	2	9	5	6	1	3	4
5	3	9	4	2	1	6	8	7
6	4	1	7	3	8	9	5	2
1	9	3	2	7	5	8	4	6
4	6	5	8	9	3	7	2	1
2	8	7	1	6	4	5	9	3

FAITH

Hanuman consoles Sita

When Sita met Hanuman in Ashokavanam, she enquired about Rama's condition. Hanuman replied that without her, Rama was like a lifeless machine, merely sustaining his body without joy or purpose. Hearing this, Sita revealed her own unbearable sorrow and confessed that separation from Rama had driven her to thoughts of ending her life. Hanuman consoled her, saying she herself was the very prana – the life breath – of Rama, and that Rama could never exist without her.

Hanuman's reassuring words dispelled Sita's grief and instilled confidence in her heart, Trichy Sri Kalyanaraman said in a discourse. Sita asked Hanuman how he, appearing as a small monkey, could cross the vast ocean. In response, Hanuman expanded his form and revealed his magnificent Viswaroopa. Beholding this wondrous sight, Sita was filled with amazement and declared that even if Ravana had imprisoned her beyond the seven seas, Hanuman would surely have discovered her.

Despite displaying such extraordinary power, Hanuman immediately resumed his humble form and spoke with great modesty. He said he was the least among the Vanara army and that there were many mighty stalwarts far superior to him. When Hanuman offered to carry Sita on his shoulders and bring her safely to Rama, she gently declined. Sita explained that such an act would diminish the glory of Rama's incomparable valour and the majesty of his powerful bow. Sita, therefore, instructed Hanuman to convey her message to Rama and urged him to come to Lanka himself, confront Ravana, and demonstrate his supreme strength by rescuing her and destroying adharma.

INBRIEF

India, Bhutan to strengthen cooperation in power sector

India and Bhutan will strengthen cooperation in the power sector, an official statement said on Tuesday. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Bhutan Lyonpo Gem Tshering met Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to strengthen cooperation in the power sector, the power ministry said. "During discussions, both sides deliberated on the commercial optimisation of power output from the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (1020 MW)," it said. PTI

Aditya Birla Capital profit jumps 33% to ₹945 cr. in Q3

Aditya Birla Capital on Tuesday reported a 33% jump in consolidated profit to ₹945 crore for the December quarter. The financial services arm of the diversified Aditya Birla Group, had reported a net profit of ₹708 crore in the year-ago period. On a standalone basis, the non-bank lender reported a 29% increase in profit after tax for the reporting quarter at ₹772 crore. The company said it took an impact of ₹38 crore because of the implementation of the new labour codes. PTI

Dhoot Transmission aims to raise $250 mn via IPO

Auto component maker Dhoot Transmission has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator SEBI through the confidential pre-filing route to raise $250 million (about ₹2,258 crore) through an initial public offering. Backed by private equity major Bain Capital, the proposed IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares along with an offer for sale (OFS) by existing investors, while the promoters will not sell any stake through the OFS, sources said. PTI

Rupee jumps 1.2% to 90.32 on U.S. tariff cut; markets cheer deal

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Clarity has emerged in India's equity, currency and precious metal indices after U.S. President Donald Trump announced in a social media post late on Monday that the reciprocal tariff on Indian imports would be reduced to 18%.

The Indian rupee emerged as the best-performing Asian currency on Tuesday, registering a record gain of 117 paise or 1.28% in a single trading session to settle at 90.32 against the U.S. dollar, after India and the U.S. agreed to a trade deal.

In response to the announcement, India's benchmark Nifty50 index increased 2.5%, the most in nine months, to 25,727.55 points on Tuesday.

Ever since the U.S. announced the reciprocal tariffs, Indian markets have been awaiting clarity on the trade deal.

While equity markets swayed, currency traders were losing confidence and the safe haven demand for gold exacerbated over and above the existing global central bank purchases.

The safe haven demand for gold has now subsided as the increase was exacerbated by the uncertainty that came from the tariffs. Though the yellow metal crashed 4.55% to $4,777 an ounce, it rebounded sharply by 5% to close at about ₹4,950 an ounce.

(With PTI inputs)

Indian, U.S. industry bodies and leaders laud tariff deal

Some, however, cautioned against taking the news of the India-U.S. deal for granted, although the U.S. President's tariff cut announcement was largely welcomed as a positive development

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Industry bodies and leaders in both India and the U.S., and across sectors, have welcomed the announcement of a deal between the two countries under which tariffs on India are set to be slashed from the current 50% to 18%.

U.S. President Donald Trump took to social media network 'Truth Social' late on Monday night to announce that he had spoken on the phone to his "greatest friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that they had agreed to a deal to reduce India's tariffs.

While Mr. Trump's post also specified various other commitments made by India, Mr. Modi's post on X regarding the call only confirmed the duty reduction, without either confirming or denying the other aspects.

"The reduction in reciprocal tariffs – from earlier levels of around 50% to 18%, as indicated – would be a major game-changer for the competitiveness of Indian exports vis-à-vis other Asian suppliers," S.C. Ralhan, President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), said.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President Rajiv Memani, too, said that the deal would "enhance the global competitiveness of Indian products while catalysing manufacturing growth, employment creation, and the development of resilient supply chains".

Deal done: The cut in reciprocal tariffs is expected to be a major game-changer for the competitiveness of Indian exports . REUTERS

The deal was also welcomed by industry bodies in the U.S.

"We are optimistic that this is the first step toward a comprehensive trade agreement that will unlock even more private sector collaboration, and we look forward to reviewing the details of the deal," U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Suzanne P. Clark said.

The electronics sector, which accounts for a large part of India-U.S. trade, is also expected to experience a "major catalyst" from the deal, according to Ashok Chandak, President of SEMI India and the India Energy Storage Alliance.

Namit Joshi, Chairman of Pharmexcil, said that the U.S. currently accounts for 30-40% of the pharmaceutical industry's total revenue.

"This deal fosters greater market access for Indian generics and biosimilars, strengthening India's position as the global leader in affordable medicines," Mr. Joshi said.

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said that the U.S. tariffs of 50% had "sharply" disrupted trade flows to U.S., which accounted for 31% of the sector's exports in 2024-25.

"This [the tariff cut] is poised to revive demand and stabilise operations," the body added.

Apart from industry bodies, the heads of several Indian companies reacted positively to the deal, saying it would positively impact them.

"The Aditya Birla Group is the largest Indian investor in the U.S., and we see this agreement help shape more resilient supply chains, unlock manufacturing opportunities and drive long-term economic competitiveness in both the U.S. and India," Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group said. He added that the Group was committed to expanding its presence and investments in the U.S.

Sudarshan Venu, Chairman of the TVS Motor Company highlighted the fact that now India has trade deals with key economic partners around the world.

"In a challenging global environment, predictability and openness in trade help Indian industry scale, innovate and create jobs," Mr. Venu said.

Anish Shah, Group CEO & Managing Director of the Mahindra Group said that the reduction in tariffs on Indian exports, along with the commitment to progressively lower tariff and non-tariff barriers, "will boost growth momentum and improve the predictability businesses need to invest with confidence".

Cautionary note

Rahul Ahluwalia, Founder-Director of the Foundation for Economic Development, however, cautions that the deal should not be taken for granted.

"Trump has shown a great deal of unpredictability in following through. Our most urgent task should remain internal reforms that help our regulations and institutions become globally competitive."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,739	2.54
US Dollar	90.32	1.27
Gold	1,57,700	3.27
Brent oil	66.70	1.07

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2202.60	207.20
Adani Ports	1530.80	127.70
Apollo Hosp	7088.50	155.00
Asian Paints	2426.00	24.00
Axis Bank	1356.20	44.70
Bajaj Auto	9595.50	99.00
Bajaj Finserv	2012.70	82.60
Bajaj Finance	964.40	60.70
Bharat Elec	438.95	-0.15
Bharti Airtel	1997.30	31.90
Cipla	1322.80	11.20
Coal India	429.40	5.90
Dr Reddys Lab	1235.40	52.90
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	DE*
Eicher Motors	7215.00	229.50
Eternal Ltd.	279.80	7.15
Grasim Ind	2808.90	34.30
HCL Tech	1695.30	18.50
HDFC Bank	948.70	20.60
HDFC Life	720.15	2.65
Hindalco	955.30	24.80
Hind Unilever	2368.60	11.30
ICICI Bank	1389.70	36.90
IntGlobeAvi	4946.20	259.20
Infosys	1656.00	26.60
ITC	316.65	1.95
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	263.90	19.80
JSW Steel	1229.40	30.20
Kotak Bank	415.80	7.60
L&T	4038.80	117.50
M&M	3527.90	64.70
Maruti Suzuki	14782.00	398.00
Max Healthcare	1003.50	45.40
NestleIndia	1308.00	-0.30
NTPC	358.55	8.20
ONGC	257.00	3.05
PowerGrid Corp	283.20	12.80
Reliance Ind	1437.10	46.70
SBI Life	2002.10	1.10
State Bank	1064.20	35.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1000.40	38.30
Sun Pharma	1702.10	74.20
TataConsumerProduct	1155.40	30.00
Tata Steel	192.93	4.42
TCS	3225.30	55.70
Tech Mahindra	1716.50	-7.50
Titan	4068.60	115.40
Tata Motors PV	372.05	9.15
Trent Ltd.	3822.80	101.90
UltraTech Cement	12590.00	55.00
Wipro	242.69	0.39

DE: Demerged Entity

Oppo plans 110 centres this year

Oppo India said on Tuesday it plans to open 110 new premium service centres this year, equipped with product and gaming experience zones. PTI

Apparel industry hopes for revival in orders post tariff cut

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The labour-intensive textile and apparel industry, whose exports to the U.S. constitute 28% of its international shipments, hopes for revival of orders and investments following the reduction of tariffs to 18%.

Textile and garment exports dropped 30% and 31.4% in October and November 2025 respectively compared with the corresponding period in 2024 due to the tariff.

According to K.M. Subramanian, president of Tiruppur Exporters Association, almost 34% of knitted garment exports from Tiruppur is to the U.S. The exporters expect orders to pick up now and will start investing to build capacities. Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, A. Sakthivel, said the 18% tariff is expected to give a strong boost to apparel exports and attract fresh investments across the value chain.

Vijay Agarwal, chairman of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, said the high volume home textiles/furnishings sector was one of the worst hit. The tariff cut will benefit the home textiles and apparel sector and orders will start picking up for the U.S. now, he added.

NMDC Q3 net dips 8% to ₹1,747 crore; revenue rises 16%

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The lower net profit came on a nearly 16% rise in revenue from operations to ₹7,610.79 crore

State-owned NMDC reported consolidated net profit for the December quarter declined almost 8% to ₹1,747.01 crore compared with ₹1,896.66 crore a year earlier.

The lower net profit came on a nearly 16% rise in revenue from operations to ₹7,610.79 crore (₹6,567.83 crore). Total expenditure was higher at ₹5,608.54 crore (₹4,359.07 crore).

₹2.50 interim dividend

The company has declared a first interim dividend of ₹2.50 per equity share (face value of ₹1 each) for 2025-26.

Besides approving the dividend, the Board meeting on Tuesday also gave its nod for NMDC's proposal of incorporation of a wholly-owned subsidiary for the acquisition, exploration, production and other related activities of critical minerals.

The setting up of the subsidiary will be subject to approval of Ministry of Steel, DIPAM and any other authority as may be required, the company said.

For the nine months ended December, NMDC's net profit increased to ₹5,397.12 crore (₹5,055.64 crore). Revenue from operations stood at ₹20,727.76 crore (₹16,900.93 crore).

'Govt. trying to minimise imports with Make in India'

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The government is committed to minimising import dependence through 'Make in India' initiatives, although it can never be entirely eliminated, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Tuesday. Mr. Singh was speaking at an event to mark the signing of an MoU between Adani Defence & Aerospace and Italian aerospace giant Leonardo in New Delhi to establish an integrated helicopter manufacturing ecosystem in India.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
S.V. GOSAMRAKSHANA SHALA, TIRUPATI. **e-TENDER NOTICE**
NIT NO. TTD-30/27/2025-SV GOSHALA, Dt. 29-12-2025.
e-Tenders are invited for management of cattle at SVIC, Palamaner on contract mode (activity based). Tender documents can be downloaded by login to **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** and select on current tenders and click on more and then select "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams at department field" and "S.V.Gosamrakshana Shala Dairy Farm in the circle / Division field" and click on search button. **Download Start 11-02-2026 From 10.30 AM and Last Date for submission of tender is 20-02-2026 up to 5.00 PM.** For further details contact Phone No.:**9281413626.**
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.385) Date:03-02-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER **TENDER NOTICE**
ADV No.63/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No.95 /SE-I/TTD/2025 -26 dt:02-02-2026
Name of work: 1) Construction of a TTD Rest House with 100 rooms to facilitate pilgrims at Sri Kodanda Rama Swamy Temple, Vontimitta, Kadapa District. **Amount:3,254.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion:12 months.**
NOTE: For full details log on to the Website **https://www.tirumala.org.**
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.384) Date:03-02-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

राजस्थान-सरकार
कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान महाविद्यालय एवं नियंत्रक सलंग्न चिकित्सालय समूह कोटा
web: https://medicaleducation.rajasthan.gov.in/mckota e-mail:principalmck@gmail.com, Tel 0744-2470674
क्रमांक : प. ()/ बजट घोषणा 59.01.11 / उपकरण क्रय/ 2025-26/1118 दिनांक 19-01-2026
ऑन लाइन बोली सूचना संख्या 26/2025-26 (E-Tender)
माननीय राज्यपाल राजस्थान की ओर से चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय द्वारा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय से सम्बद्ध चिकित्सालयों कोटा में बजट घोषणा संख्या 59.01.11 वर्ष 2025-26 की क्रियान्विति के क्रम में एवं यू.जी. अपग्रेडेशन योजनान्तर्गत उपकरणों का क्रय जिनकी अनुमानित लागत राशि रु. 1100.64 लाख है। मूल विनिर्माताओ / अधिकृत विक्रेताओ / वितरकों / सद्भावी व्यवहारियों से ई-उपापन प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से दिनांक 21-01-26 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 09-02-26 सायं 06.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाइट **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पोर्टल पर देखा जा सकता है।
UBN:- CMK2526GLOB00216 To 257
DIPR/C/1471/2026 **प्रधानाचार्य एवं नियंत्रक**

ICMR - National Animal Resource Facility For Biomedical Research
Department of Health Research,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India
Genome Valley, Kolthur (PO), Shamirpet (M), Hyderabad, Telangana - 500101
NOTIFICATION
Advt. No. ICMR-NARFBR/YP/2026 date 03.02.2026
Applications are invited to fill up four positions of full time Young Professionals on temporary basis for: **1. YP-I (Administration-Stores/Procurement) 2. YP-II (Administration- Stores/ Procurement) 3. YP-I (GLP) 4. YP-II (IT).** For essential qualification, experience, age, other terms and conditions along with Application Form visit www.icmr.gov.in and https://narfbr.icmr.gov.in/ Interested candidates may download application form and send duly filled-in application form along with self-attested copies of credentials through speed post (visit website notification for address) and an advance copy to email id: estt-narfbr@icmr.gov.in on **or before 24.02.2026 till 05:00 PM.**
Corrigendum, if any, shall be published on the Institute's website only. **Sd/-**
Senior Administrative Officer

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2606/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001485)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Conversion of 110kV SCSC line to 132kV SCDC line from 220/110kV Ogalewadi Substation to 110kV Borgaon Substation using same corridor - Route Length - 30.69 Km on turnkey wok basis under MSETCL, Karad Zone, MSETCL."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 30.01.2026.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project), MSETCL

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2607/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001464) (1st Call)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 220/132/33kV PM Mitra Textile Park sub-station, Tal. & Dist.- Amravati along with construction of 220 KV DCDC line from proposed 400/220 kV Nandgaon Peth s/s with HPC conductor - 5.68 km under Amravati Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 28.01.2026.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP portal)
Name of work: Inviting Tenders for Appointing Project Management Consultant (PMC) for Construction Supervision & Monitoring of works with Quality and Quantity Assurance, Quality Inspection of Materials, Verification & Certification of Bills, Assessment of Progress of works and Pre & post analysis of capex works in **Ramanagar, Kolar & Bangalore rural circles in BRAZ, Davanagere & Tumkur circles in CTAZ and South & West circles in BMAZ(South), BESCOM.**

Sl. No	Name of Circle	Enquiry No's
1.	Ramanagara Circle	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0409
2.	Kolar Circle	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0410
3.	Bangalore Rural Circle	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0411
4.	Davanagere Circle	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0412
5.	Tumkur Circle	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0413
6.	South Circle	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0442
7.	West Circle	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0443

Time Schedule: 1) Availability of Bid documents **05.02.2026** onwards. 2) Last date for Bid submission **07.03.2026** at **15:00 Hrs.** 3) Opening of Technical Bids: **09.03.2026** at **15:00 Hrs.** 4) Pre-Bid Meeting: **18.02.2026** at **12:00 Hrs.** 5) Venue: **Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, BELAKU BHAVANA, Corporate office, BESCOM, K.R Circle, Bengaluru-560001.**
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
KPP Portal Help Desk:Phone No: +91 9240214000/ +91 924021-4001/ +91-8046010000/ +91-8068948777 E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com
Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during office working hours.
For any BESCOM related Complaints Call: 1912
Please Download BESCOM Mitra Mobile App
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Electy), Projects, BESCOM

Venezuelan oil will be difficult to process, say Indian refiners

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Even as U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Monday night that India had agreed to buy more oil from Venezuela, Indian refiners, in the recent past, cited difficulties in refining the oil from the South American nation.

This is primarily due to the fact that Venezuelan crude is comparatively difficult to process, and its properties are not very similar to those of other crude, they said.

Notably, Indian authorities have not yet confirmed or denied Mr. Trump's assertions regarding India's oil purchases.

"Venezuelan crude apart from being bottom-heavy, also has high viscosity and high acid number," State-owned refiner Hindustan Petroleum's Director for Refineries S. Bharathan said in an analyst call earlier this month.

In other words, the heavy crude oil is thicker, thus, the higher viscosity is indicative of its resistance to flow while the higher acid number indicates the chemical mix existing naturally in the oil.

Speaking to *The Hindu* last week, Sanjay Khanna, CMD of Bharat Petroleum as well as its Director for Refineries explained that the bottom-heavy crude had high metal and nitrogen content.

"It [Venezuelan crude] would have to be co-blended with other lighter crude, up to a 10-15% range and then processed," he explained.

Mr. Khanna further emphasised that procurement from any geography hinges on "techno-commercial" viability and availability.

Natco gets U.S. FDA nod for cancer drug generic

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Natco Pharma has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration's tentative approval for Erdafitinib Tablets 3 mg, 4 mg, and 5 mg, a generic version of Janssen Biotech cancer drug Balversa.

Erdafitinib tablets had estimated sales of $60 million in the U.S. for 12 months ending September 2025, the pharma company said on Tuesday, citing industry sales data.

WASHINGTON

'U.S. shoots down Iranian drone that approached aircraft carrier'

AFP

U.S. Central Command said on Tuesday that a U.S. Navy fighter jet shot down an Iranian drone that was "aggressively approaching" the aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln* with "unclear intent" in the Arabian Sea. The Shahed-139 drone was shot down by an F-35C fighter jet from the *Lincoln*. AP

YANGON

Myanmar, Russia sign new military cooperation pact, lasting till 2030

AFP

Myanmar and Russia have signed a five-year military cooperation pact, Moscow said on Tuesday, sealing an alliance analysts say has been crucial to the junta's grip on power. Russia's Defence Ministry announced the new pact lasting until 2030 after a Monday visit to Myanmar by Sergei Shoigu. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan adopts resolution urging 'aggressive' response to terrorism

AP

Pakistan's National Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution urging the government to adopt an "aggressive" national response to tackle the threat of external sponsors of militancy and their internal facilitators. The resolution said that "in several cases, evidence available points to external sponsorship". PTI

KHARTOUM

Sudan military broke siege on key southern city Kadugli: Army chief

REUTERS

The Sudanese Army broke a paramilitary siege on the key southern city of Kadugli on Tuesday, Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said, in the latest reversal of a paramilitary offensive through the Kordofan region. Kadugli has been besieged for much of Sudan's nearly three-year war between the army and RSF. AFP

Palestinians line up to cross Rafah as it reopens

Associated Press
KHAN YOUNIS

Palestinians lined up on Tuesday on both sides of Gaza's border with Egypt, hoping to pass through the Rafah crossing after its long-awaited reopening the previous day.

On the Egyptian side were Palestinians who had undergone medical treatment in Egypt and had left Gaza earlier in the Israel-Hamas war.

On the Gaza side, Palestinians in need of treatment unavailable in Gaza were brought in busses.

Palestinian Red Crescent spokesperson said that only 16 patients, accompanied by 40 relatives, were brought from Khan Younis to the Gaza side of Rafah.

Russia sounds alarm as New START treaty is set to expire

The last nuclear treaty between Washington and Moscow is set to expire tomorrow; Moscow awaiting U.S. response to one-year extension offer; Russian drones strike Ukraine ahead of talks

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The Kremlin warned on Tuesday that the world was heading into a "dangerous" moment as the last U.S.-Russia nuclear treaty is set to expire this week.

New START, the last nuclear treaty between Washington and Moscow after decades of agreements dating to the Cold War, is set to expire on Thursday, and with it restrictions on the two top nuclear powers.

"In just a few days, the world will be in a more dangerous position than it has ever been before," spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. The Kremlin, which has offered a one-year extension of the treaty, said "we still haven't received a response from the Americans to this initiative".

Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump during a press meet at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, in Alaska, in August 2025. REUTERS

If the treaty is not extended, the world's top two nuclear powers would "be left without a fundamental document that would limit and control these arsenals," for the first time.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who cut many international agreements limiting the United States, said in September that an extension of the New START "sounds like a good idea," but little has changed since then.

Meanwhile, Russia fired around 450 long-range drones and 70 missiles of various types at Ukraine in a major attack overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

The barrage came a day before the two countries were due to attend U.S.-brokered talks in Abu Dhabi.

Iran's Pezeshkian backs 'fair and equitable' talks

Stanly Johny

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday he has instructed Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to pursue "fair and equitable" negotiations with the U.S., amid largescale U.S. troop mobilisation in waters close to Iran and regional efforts to jump-start diplomacy.

"In light of requests from friendly governments in the region to respond to the proposal by the President of the United States for negotiations, I have instructed my Minister of Foreign Affairs, provided that a suitable environment exists – one free from threats and unreasonable expectations – to pursue fair and equitable negotiations, guided by the principles of dignity, prudence, and expediency," Mr. Pezeshkian wrote in a social media post.

Masoud Pezeshkian

Earlier, American media reported that Mr. Araghchi would meet White House Special envoy Steve Witkoff on Friday in Istanbul. U.S. President Donald Trump had warned last week that "time is running out" for Tehran to make a deal over its nuclear programme and warned that "a massive armada" was heading towards Iran. Amid regional tensions, Turkiye, Qatar, Egypt, and Oman have been pushing for direct talks between the U.S. and Iran. Most of America's allies in West Asia have opposed strikes on Iran.

"These negotiations shall be conducted within the framework of our national interests," Mr. Pezeshkian said on Tuesday, without elaborating.

On Monday, the State Department said the President was open for a deal. "Ultimately, the President is focused on our national interest. He has outlined a very clear message for the [Iranian] regime – no nuclear weapons, stop killing protesters," State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott told Fox News in an interview.

What is happening in Balochistan?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On January 30-31, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) carried out coordinated attacks across at least nine districts of Balochistan, targeting police stations, military outposts and a high-security prison in Quetta, the provincial capital. In a video released online, BLA leader Bashir Zeb Baloch claimed responsibility for the attacks, describing them as the second phase of the 'Herof' (Black Storm) operation. He called on Baloch men and women to leave their homes and join the "national liberation war" against the Pakistani military. The BLA claimed it killed 84 security personnel and kidnapped 18 others.

According to Pakistani authorities, the military launched operations against the militants across the province, killing at least 145 fighters. Soon after the attacks, Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi accused India of supporting "terrorists". "India is behind these attacks. I can tell you for sure that India planned these attacks along with these terrorists," Mr. Naqvi said, without offering any evidence. On February 1, India "categorically rejected" Pakistan's "baseless allegations", calling them "usual tactics to deflect attention from its own internal failings," according to a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Burnt vehicles inside a torched police station on the outskirts of Quetta on Sunday, after an attack by Baloch separatists. AFP

Rich in minerals

Balochistan, a long-standing flashpoint Pakistan, has witnessed a surge in violence in recent years, particularly after the Taliban, which was backed by the Pakistani military establishment, captured power in Kabul in August 2021. According to the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies, Balochistan recorded at least 254 attacks in 2025, resulting in more than 400 deaths, a 26% rise from the previous year.

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, covers nearly 40% of the country's land area. Rich in mineral resources, it shares borders with Iran and Afghanistan, has an Arabian Sea coastline, and is home to nearly 15 million of Pakistan's 240 million people. Most of the country's mineral wealth – copper, scandium, lead, zinc, chromite, marble, granite and molybdenum – is concentrated in Balochistan, which also holds significant reserves of oil, gas, coal and gold.

The $60-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, linking China's Xinjiang region to Pakistan's Gwadar port through roads, railways and pipelines, passes through Balochistan. In September 2025, US Strategic Metals, a Missouri-based mining firm, signed a $500m memorandum of understanding with Pakistan's Frontier Works Organisation, a military-aligned company, to extract minerals in Pakistan. But recurring violence in Balochistan continues to threaten the viability of large, long-term investments in the province.

Waves of rebellion

Balochistan has witnessed several waves of rebellion since its annexation by the Pakistani state in 1948. The latest phase began in the early 2000s after the emergence of the BLA. Human rights organisations have accused Pakistan of using excessive force against Baloch nationalists and militants. Amnesty International reports that over 10,000 Balochis have disappeared in Pakistan since 2011.

Enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and military operations have deepened resentment among the Baloch population. Local leaders argue that the Pakistani government is exploiting the province's resources without addressing the development needs of the local population. Long-standing historical, political and economic grievances have fuelled the separatist movement. Following the Taliban takeover of Kabul, as security conditions deteriorated in Pakistan's border regions with the Pakistani Taliban stepping up attacks in the tribal areas, Baloch separatist groups also intensified their operations.

In March 2025, the BLA carried out one of their most daunting attacks when they hijacked the Jaffar Khan Express with more than 400 passengers onboard. Pakistani security forces launched Operation Green Bolan, rescuing more than 300 passengers and killing at least 33 fighters, according to an official account. March also witnessed largescale protests, called by the Baloch Yakjethi Committee, a Baloch rights movement, which was violently put down by state forces.

Cycle of violence

But despite Pakistan's resort to heavy force, Baloch militants have expanded their attacks in recent years. Since 2018, major factions, including the BLA and the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), have coordinated under the banner of the Baloch Raaji Aajoi Sangar, a united front that calls for a sovereign Balochistan. Militants have increasingly deployed suicide bombers (including women), carried out coordinated attacks and temporarily seized territory and key highways, directly challenging state authority.

The Pakistani state often responds with retaliatory force, but without breaking the cycle of violence. Islamabad has frequently blamed India for the Baloch insurgency. Following the Jaffar Khan express attack, Pakistan formally designated Baloch militant groups as 'Fitna al-Hindustan'. India has consistently rejected any involvement. "Instead of parroting frivolous claims each time there is a violent incident, [Pakistan] would do better to focus on addressing long-standing demands of its people in the region," India said on February 1. "Its record of suppression, brutality and violation of human rights is well known."

WEIGHING IN OPTIONS

Desire to play Test season a reason behind skipping T20 WC: Cummins

AFP

Australia's Pat Cummins said his injury-forced withdrawal from the T20 WC was also driven by a desire to be completely fit for the Test season. "We thought the first half of the year was a pretty good time to be conservative with the amount of cricket that is coming up. Hopefully that will mean I can just go out and play all those Tests".

SHOULDERING ARMS

No comments on Pakistan's stance, our focus is on winning WC: Marsh

AP

I don't have any comment on that [Pakistan's boycott of its T20 World Cup match against India] at this point. We are going to the World Cup to just focus on what we are doing, we will let that stuff take care of itself — Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh on the team's priorities ahead of the T20 showpiece.

FASTEST FINGERS FIRST

Third stage of the T20 World Cup ticket sales commences

ICC

The third stage of ticket sales for the T20 World Cup commenced on Tuesday. "As the third phase of ticket sales opens, we look forward to welcoming fans to our stadiums for matches that reflect the depth and competitiveness of international cricket across all participating teams," said BCCI president Mithun Manhas.

PERFECT PREP

England beats Lanka by 12 runs in a low-scoring game, sweeps series

AP

England achieved a 3-0 series sweep after defeating Sri Lanka by 12 runs in a low-scoring third T20I in Pallekele on Tuesday. It was England's 11th successive T20I victory over Sri Lanka. **The scores:** England 128/9 in 20 overs (Curran 58, Chameera 5/24) bt Sri Lanka 116 in 19.3 overs (Bethell 4/11, Jacks 3/14).

Vital strikes: Henry's three-wicket haul put the brakes on the Giants innings. VIJAY SONEJI

Capitals storm into a fourth straight final

Openers Lee and Shafali get the Delhi team off to a blazing start in its chase of 169; Jemimah and Wolvaardt chip in; Mooney's effort in vain

WPL-4

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

Delhi Capitals had faltered in the final over of the chase in its two defeats to Gujarat Giants in the league phase of the 2026 Women's Premier League. In the Eliminator on Tuesday, Capitals didn't allow the game to get that close.

In pursuit of 169 on a track offering low bounce at the Kotambi Stadium, Jemimah Rodrigues and Co. strolled to a seven-wicket win with 26 balls to spare, and sealed their spot in Thursday's final against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. This will be Capitals' fourth straight appearance in the summit clash.

In marked contrast to Giants' batters, who found the going tough early on, Capitals blazed away to 75 for no loss in the first six overs of the pursuit as Lizelle Lee and Shafali Verma displayed ferocious ball-striking. In the fifth over, the pair tore into Renuka Singh, hitting five fours.

It was Georgia Wareham's introduction in the eighth over that gave the hosts some relief. The leggie snared Lee and Shafali in the space of five deliveries. But by then, DC was 92 for two, and just needed another 77 runs off 72 balls. Thereafter, Jemimah (41, 23b, 4x4, 1x6) and Laura Wolvaardt (32 n.o., 24b, 2x4, 1x6) took firm control with crisp shots in a 68-run stand.

Earlier, Beth Mooney (62 n.o., 51b, 6x4) did well to help Giants recover from 59 for four and post 168 for seven. She received considerable support from Wareham, who hit a quick-fire 35 in a partnership of 61. For DC, Chinelle Henry took three wickets.

A shaky start meant Ashleigh Gardner's side was always up against it. Sophie Devine slashed hard to get off the mark with a boundary off Marizanne Kapp. But when she tried a similar shot against Henry in the next over, the ball took her outside edge. Lee stuck her right glove out for a nonchalant grab.

Giants' run rate received a slight boost when Kapp leaked 17 in the fifth over, but it was promptly offset by Nandani Sharma removing Anushka Sharma and Gardner off consecutive balls.

In the circumstances, Mooney and Wareham applied themselves sensibly to ensure a competitive total. But it was no more than that.

Rising to the occasion: Jemimah's breezy knock ensured Capitals were home and dry with plenty to spare. VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT GIANTS
Beth Mooney (not out) 62 *(51b, 6x4)*, Sophie Devine c Lee b Henry 6 *(9b, 1x4)*, Anushka Sharma c Henry b Nandani 16 *(13b, 2x4)*, Ashleigh Gardner c Sneh b Nandani 0 *(1b)*, Kanika Ahuja st. Lee b Minnu 6 *(9b)*, Georgia Wareham c Wolvaardt b Henry 35 *(25b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Bharti Fulmali c & b Henry 0 *(2b)*, Kashvee Gautam run out 18 *(10b, 3x4)*, Tanuja Kanwar (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-6, w-19): 25; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 168.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-9 (Devine, 1.6 overs), 2-38 (Anushka, 5.1), 3-38 (Gardner, 5.2), 4-59 (Kanika, 8.4), 5-120 (Wareham, 16.2), 6-125 (Bharti, 16.4), 7-164 (Kashvee, 19.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-0-32-0, Henry 4-0-35-3, Nandani 4-0-44-2, Minnu 4-0-23-1, Sneh 1-0-3-0, Shree Charani 3-0-25-0.

DELHI CAPITALS
Lizelle Lee lbw b Wareham 43 *(24b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Shafali Verma b Wareham 31 *(21b, 7x4)*, Laura Wolvaardt (not out) 32 *(24b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Devine b Rajeshwari 41 *(23b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Marizanne Kapp (not out) 4 *(3b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-8, lb-1, nb-1, w-8): 18; Total (for three wkts. in 15.4 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-89 (Lee, 7.1), 2-92 (Shafali, 7.6), 3-160 (Jemimah, 14.5).

GIANTS BOWLING
Renuka 2-0-27-0, Kashvee 2-0-17-0, Rajeshwari 3-0-33-1, Devine 3-0-35-0, Wareham 3.4-0-28-2, Tanuja 1-0-5-0, Gardner 1-0-15-0.

Toss: Capitals; **PoM:** Jemimah.
Capitals won by seven wickets with 26 deliveries to spare.

West Indies, England start favourites in Group C

T20 WC COUNTDOWN

Abhishek Saini

Bangladesh's unceremonious, late withdrawal from the T20 World Cup not only paved a way for Scotland's entry into Group C but has also eased the West Indies and England's paths to the Super Eights.

As the only two Full Member nations in the reckoning, West Indies and England are the overwhelming favourites. The other teams in the group are Nepal and debutant Italy.

England's 4-1 drubbing at the hands of India last January forced the 2022 champion to embrace the high-octane template of the format.

Under Harry Brook's charge, England has scored at 11.39 runs per over in the PowerPlay since April 2025, outdoing even India and Australia, who started this trend of throwing caution to the wind.

Key man

Phil Salt has been a lynchpin in this approach with a strike rate in excess of 172, and an average of 43.

Veteran leg-spinner Adil Rashid, who will most probably take his final bow at this World Cup, is still England's most prolific bowler. He's nabbed 23 wickets since the last World Cup at an economy of just 8.47.

The outlook is not as promising for the Caribbean outfit. Only one Full Member team – Ireland – has fared worse than West Indies in this World Cup cycle. The Caribbean side has won just 13 of its 40 games since July 2024.

Romario Shepherd is the undisputed match-winner for the two-time former champion, and has chipped in with both the bat and ball – 35 wickets and 442 runs – since July 2024. West Indies can also rely on Akeal Hosein, whose inventive change-ups have been a revelation for the art of slow left-arm orthodox bowling. Mixing up his deliveries, Hosain has 35 wickets since July 2024 at an economy of under seven. However, the problems outweigh the silver linings.

A run rate of less than eight-an over in the Power-Play since July 2024 does not paint a promising picture. Shai Hope has been the most prolific batter at No. 3, but could do with speeding up his accumulation of runs (137). Shimron Hetmyer, meanwhile, has a healthy strike rate of (176.79) but inconsistency and limited volume (320 runs at 22.85) have blunted his impact.

Another predicament awaiting the West Indies is finding a spinner to strike in tandem with Hosein. Its pace unit, other than Jason Holder, is still inexperienced and Alzarri Joseph not making the cut due to injury only adds to its woes.

Genuine match-winners: Shepherd remains central to West Indies' fortunes while veteran England leggie Rashid continues to bamboozle the best in the business. FILE PHOTOS

The Group C schedule

DATE	TEAMS	VENUE	TIME
Feb. 7	West Indies vs. Scotland	Kolkata	3 p.m.
Feb. 8	England vs. Nepal	Mumbai	3 p.m.
Feb. 9	Scotland vs. Italy	Kolkata	11 a.m.
Feb. 11	England vs. West Indies	Mumbai	7 p.m.
Feb. 12	Nepal vs. Italy	Mumbai	3 p.m.
Feb. 14	England vs. Scotland	Kolkata	3 p.m.
Feb. 15	West Indies vs. Nepal	Mumbai	11 a.m.
Feb. 16	England vs. Italy	Kolkata	3 p.m.
Feb. 17	Scotland vs. Nepal	Mumbai	7 p.m.
Feb. 19	West Indies vs. Italy	Kolkata	11 a.m.

Nepal on the prowl

Playing catch up at the World Cup can be a risk-laden proposition for the West Indies, especially with Nepal, which almost defeated South Africa last time, in the fray. It will be on the prowl again, hoping that a giant-killing would finally convince world cricket of how close it is to the upper echelon.

Italy, meanwhile, will also fancy its chances of going back with a win. It had defeated Scotland by 12 runs in the European qualifiers, and the two have been pitted together again.

It prepared for the World Cup with a three-match series against Ireland, and got a taste of how life without Joe Burns would look like. The former Australia batter had been central through the qualifiers, but will not feature at the World Cup due to a contractual dispute.

Cricket slowly finding a place in football-crazy Italy

S. Shrivathsan
CHENNAI

None would have pictured this in their wildest dreams, not even those who believe in the stuff of fantasy.

Italy, a football-crazy nation with a rich history, could end up missing the bus to the FIFA World Cup – the side still has to clear the European playoffs – in a year in which its lesser-known cricket team makes its debut on the biggest stage in the T20 blue-riband event.

The Italy cricket team's assistant coach Kevin O'Brien and player Ben Manenti came up with witty responses when asked about the unthinkable unfolding before our eyes. "Hopefully, they (football players) might look at the success we have had in the last couple of months and take inspiration," said O'Brien, tongue in cheek, during a chat here on Monday.

Ben sounded a friendly warning. "The football team might not be in the World Cup, so the fans might have only one World Cup (to follow) this year. So, they better get behind us."

History suggests that cricket had made its way into Italy centuries ago before disappearing from the scene. As strange as it may sound, football giant AC Milan was a wing of the 'Milan Football and Cricket Club' when it was founded in 1899.

Now, the influx of foreign-born players has helped put cricket back on Italy's sports map. But O'Brien stressed that the 'local' lads too have been shaping Italian cricket.

"We have five home-based players in the World Cup squad. This tournament is all about giving Italian cricket a proper exposure. Hopefully, the people back home get inspired by watching their friends and country play.

"The federation (Italian Cricket Federation) has invested time and resources to get the grassroots going, which is important. It will take time, but tournaments like this will help push that forward," said O'Brien.

After all, Italian cricket, like Rome, cannot be built – or rebuilt – in a day.

Getting ready: Wayne Madsen of Italy in action during a warm-up match against Canada in Chennai on Monday. R. RAGU

The star: Rew set up England's win against Australia. GETTY IMAGES

England enters final; India vs. Afghanistan

UNDER-19 WC

Press Trust of India
HARARE

A confident India, unbeaten so far, will be the overwhelming favourite against Afghanistan in the semifinal of the ICC under-19 World Cup here on Wednesday.

The victor will face England – which beat Australia by 27 runs in the other last-four stage match – in Friday's summit clash.

It was a tale of contrasting fortunes for England skipper Thomas Rew and Australia captain Oliver Peake in Tuesday's semifinal. While Rew's 107-ball 110 (14x4, 1x6) took England to 277 for seven in 50 overs, Peake's 88-ball 100 (10x4, 1x6) went in vain as his side fell short.

India, the most successful team in the tournament, having clinched the title five times (2000, 2008, 2012, 2018, 2022), should fancy its chances of going all the way.

Ayush Mhatre & Co. have had a great run in this edition, winning all their matches quite comfortably, including a 58-run win over Pakistan in the Super Six stage.

Afghanistan, too, has had a fairly good tournament, winning four of its five games, its only loss coming against Sri Lanka.

The scores: Semifinal: England 277/7 in 50 overs (Rew 110, Falconer 40) bt Australia 250 in 47.3 overs (Samuel 47, Peake 100).

Toss: England; **PoM:** Rew.

INBRIEF

Sunderland routs Burnley; Mallorca mauls Sevilla

Sunderland cruised to a 3-0 win against Burnley on Monday to boost its hopes of qualifying for Europe and push the Premier League strugglers closer to relegation. Sunderland climbed to eighth place to maintain its impressive return to the top-flight. Vedat Muriqi scored his ninth goal in nine LaLiga games as Mallorca beat Sevilla 4-1 to leapfrog its rival and escape the relegation zone.

The results: Premier League: Sunderland 3 (Tuanzebe 9-og, Diarra 32, Talbi 72) bt Burnley 0.
LaLiga: Mallorca 4 (Muriqi 26-pen, Costa 53, Darder 74, Torre 90+6) bt Sevilla 1 (Maupay 45+1).
Serie A: Udinese 1 (Ekkelenkamp 49) bt Roma 0.

Grace Dangmei seals India's win over Hertha BSC Frauen

The Indian senior women's national team registered a 1-0 victory over German side Hertha BSC Frauen in a friendly match at the S&B Sport Football Complex, Antalya, Turkiye, on Monday. Grace Dangmei scored the decisive goal in the 37th minute to secure the win for the Blue Tigresses, as they continued their preparatory campaign ahead of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026.

India u-17 women's football team loses to Bangladesh

The India under-17 women's team suffered a 0-2 defeat against Bangladesh in the SAFF U-19 women's championship 2026 in Pokhara, Nepal, on Monday. Arpita Biswas (29) and Alpi Akter (40) scored for Bangladesh, which leads the table with six points from two matches. India is second with three. India will take on Bhutan on February 4. The top two teams in the round-robin stage will qualify for the final. Although it is an U-19 tournament, India has sent an U-17 squad that is preparing for the AFC U-17 Asian Cup, set to be held later this year.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 WC: Afghanistan vs India, SS Select 2 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.

Kerala too good for Assam; Punjab edges Tamil Nadu in a shootout

Services knocks out defending champion Bengal on penalties, meets Railways in last-four stage; all semifinalists are from Group B in the final round

Marching on: Kerala had it easy against the home side Assam, while the Services players are over the moon after stunning Bengal in the shootout. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SANTOSH TROPHY

Sports Bureau
SILAPATHAR

Kerala blanked hosts Assam 3-0 to enter the semifinals of the 79th Santosh Trophy National football championship at the Rajiv Gandhi stadium here on Tuesday.

Kerala went ahead in the 17th minute when captain Manoj headed in a corner-kick, while Mohammed Ajsal doubled the lead in the 45th. Abubacker Dilshad completed the rout in the second minute of stoppage time, scoring off a pass from Sajeesh.

In the semifinals, Kerala will face Punjab, which defeated Tamil Nadu 4-1 on penalties.

Jatinder Singh Rana handed Punjab the lead in the 37th minute before M. Umasankar equalised in the 84th minute to push the match into extra time. Spot-kicks were needed after the game ended in a stalemate.

Services knocked out defending champion Bengal 3-2 on penalties after the match finished goalless.

Railways defeated Rajasthan 2-0 and will meet Services in the last four. After a goalless first half, Saurabh Banwala (74) and Johnson Joseph (83) struck late.

Interestingly, all semifinalists are from Group B in the final round.

The last-four matches will be played on Thursday.

The results (quarterfinals): Assam 0 lost to Kerala 3 (Manoj 17, Mohammed Ajsal 45, Abubacker Dilshad 90+2); Bengal 0 drew with Services 0. Services won 3-2 on penalties; Railways 2 (Saurabh Banwala 74, Johnson Joseph 83) bt Rajasthan 0; Tamil Nadu 1 (M. Ushankar 84) drew with Punjab 1 (Jatinder Singh Rana 37). Punjab won 4-1 on penalties.

Liverpool seals Jacquet deal, Palace signs Strand Larsen

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Liverpool won the race to sign Rennes defender Jeremy Jacquet on a quiet final day of the Premier League transfer window, while Crystal Palace swooped for Wolves striker Jorgen Strand Larsen despite the collapse of Jean-Philippe Mateta's move to AC Milan.

The Reds agreed a reported fee of up to £60 million for the highly rated Jacquet before the window closed at 19.00 GMT.

But the 20-year-old will not join the Premier League champion until the summer despite Liverpool's need for defensive reinforcements.

Jacquet had been linked with a transfer to Chelsea earlier this month but was reportedly put off the move by the competition for places at centre-back in the Blues' bloated squad.

Have to wait: Jacquet will not join the Premier League champion until the summer. GETTY IMAGES

Palace completed the club-record £48 million signing of Norway forward Strand Larsen on a four-and-a-half-year contract.

Palace moved for Strand Larsen after believing Mateta was about to leave the club for AC Milan. Mateta's proposed switch to Serie A fell through on Monday after medical concerns over a knee injury, but Palace still brought in Strand Larsen.

Bottom of the table Wolves signed Southampton striker Adam Armstrong for £7 million to replace Strand Larsen. Everton signed Chelsea's 19-year-old winger Tyrique George on loan for the rest of the season.

Chelsea recalled Mamadou Sarr from his loan spell at Strasbourg.

MCC brings in 73 changes to the laws of cricket

Press Trust of India
LONDON

As many as 73 changes to the laws of cricket, including mandatory completion of the final over of the day in case of fall of a wicket in multi-day matches, have been announced by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of the Laws, with the amendments set to come into effect from October this year.

Announcing the changes on its website, the MCC said the final over in a multi-day match will have to be completed if a wicket has fallen, as not doing so takes "the drama out of the game".

The MCC has legalised used of laminated bats for "open age cricket rather than just junior cricket" in an attempt to slow the rising costs of bats around the world.

The wicket-keepers will no longer be penalised for having their gloves in front of the stumps when the bowler runs up.

The Law has now changed so that it is only after the ball is released that the wicket-keeper must be wholly behind the stumps.

This brings the wording in line with a fielder's position," it added.

Bunny hop catch

Removing the 'bunny hop catch', the MCC said fielders going outside boundary can only touch the ball once while airborne, "and then, having done so, to be wholly grounded within the boundary for the rest of the duration of that delivery."

The MCC said if the fielder parries the ball from outside the boundary to his teammate who is inside it, and subsequently steps outside, then a boundary will be scored.

The MCC has defined the 'overthrow' for the first time as 'an attempt to direct the ball towards the stumps to stop run-scoring or attempt a run out. A misfield – whether an attempt to stop the ball or pass it to another fielder close to the boundary – should not be treated as an overthrow."

The fielding side will have a third law on their side to determine which batter is on strike when it comes to deliberate short running.

The ball will be considered "finally settled" when it is in the hands of a fielder or stationary on the ground, said MCC.

"The ball no longer has to be in the bowler's or the wicketkeeper's hands to be finally settled," it said.

India to host Asian rifle/pistol championship next year

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India will host next year's Asian rifle/pistol championship in New Delhi, where eight quota places for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will be up for grabs, marking a historic first for the country's shooting calendar, which already features an Olympic qualifier in the World Cup.

The eight slots in the Asian competition will be in addition to the 12 quota places on offer in the World Cup (rifle/pistol/shotgun) from April 21 to 30 next year, also to be held in New Delhi.

The allotment of the Asian event was confirmed by the Asian Shooting Confederation in a letter to the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president, Kalikesh Singh Deo.

The NRAI stated that the dates for the Asian qualifier will be finalised in due course.

Deo expressed his excitement at the prospect of a significant number of Indian shooters booking Olympic slots through these events.

NRAI secretary general Pawankumar Singh said was a proud moment for the country.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Hyderabad salvages draw against Karnataka

Hyderabad hung on to salvage a draw against Karnataka in the under-14 South Zone tournament at Vizianagaram.

The scores: Karnataka 402/3 decl. drew with Hyderabad 186 in 55.3 overs (Krishna Kumar 4/45) and 95/7 in 42 overs.

Samit coasts past Vishwajeet

BENGALURU: Karnataka's Samit Bandu whipped Delhi's Vishwajeet Chaudhary 15-8, 15-5 in the men's fifth round of the Yonex-Sunrise all India senior ranking badminton tournament.
In the women's third round, unseeded Annanya Pravin of Karnataka upset fourth seed Tanisha Singh (Rajasthan) 15-10, 10-15, 15-12.

Basketball player Rajagopal passes away

Former Karnataka basketball player Rajagopal has passed away. He was 67. Rajagopal represented HAL on the club circuit. The Karnataka State Basketball Association mourned his demise.

Narrow win for Bangalore Warriors

Bangalore Warriors FC edged out Empire FC 3-2 in the BDFA B-division football league here on Tuesday.

The results: Bangalore Warriors FC bt Empire FC 3-2; Juno FC bt Revive FC 5-0; KSP FC bt Young Blues Elite FC 2-1; Bangalore Gunners FC drew with Infinite Belagavi FC 1-1.

Looking over your shoulder can lead to a pain in the neck

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Hours before the T20 World Cup, it is difficult to tell who is teaching whom a lesson.

First, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) wanted to teach Shah Rukh Khan a lesson by asking Kolkata Knight Riders to unpick Mustafizur Rahman after he had been chosen in the IPL auction.

Then Bangladesh wanted to teach India a lesson by asking for their matches to be shifted to Sri Lanka. The International Cricket Council (ICC) told Bangladesh to play in India or stay at home. They are staying at home.

Eager to show they could be as irresponsible as anybody else, Pakistan first threatened to pull out to teach India a lesson. Then they decided to teach the world a lesson by not playing the league match against India on February 15. The world, meanwhile is confused because not only are players from Bangladesh and Pakistan set to suffer, but cricket too, which sells World Cups on two India-Pakistan matches per tournament.

Costly repercussions

Pakistan, who just beat Australia 3-0 in a home series, might have to pay a fine, compensate television, face a ban or miss out on millions from their share of income from the ICC.

Their net run rate against India gets hit because it will be calculated on the basis of zero runs in 20 overs.

As politicians in government and in sport (the same people, by a happy coincidence) wave ego and vanity at one another, intent on showing who has the bigger one, the game suffers, fans are cheated and the governing body appears increasingly craven.

Pakistan has plausible deniability. Its cricket board has not formally written to the ICC after the government posted its intention on social media.

India will have to land up at the ground on the day in case Pakistan turn up and claim a walkover.

Their government has not mentioned any reason for the boycott (it needn't be genuine) or explained what happens if they meet India in the knockouts. They are just keen on 'doing an India' on the ICC.

Not all gloom and doom

It may not be all doom and gloom, however. The ICC trick of having India and Pakistan in the same group for World Cups might give way to a more honest draw in future based on chance, not intent.

Pakistan's stand, self-harming though it is, might embolden other countries to take a stand against the bully that is the BCCI, and lead to a more equitable distribution of funds and matches.

In all this, it was left to the ICC to provide the humour. "ICC tournaments," it declared grandly in a letter to the PCB, "are built on sporting integrity, competitiveness, consistency and fairness...."

Only one of those is true, the consistency with which India are allowed to get away with tweaking the nose of the ICC whose main agenda seems to be keeping India happy, and the television money flowing. The two are connected. You could argue that an unhappy India might lead to a drying up of the funds, but to ensure 'competitiveness', a sport needs more than one participant.

Pakistan's ill-advised move might backfire, but it's a nice reminder that they have a half-share in cricket's biggest payday. If television moves to renegotiate its deal allowing for no India-Pakistan match, cricket's economy will be threatened. So where do we go from here? Some of the glitter of a world tournament has already gone, thanks to the politics of Bangladesh's removal.

If Pakistan – not unused to U-turns – go missing too, the BCCI might rue allowing ego to trump common sense while picking up a lesson in unintended consequences.

None of the parties involved, from the ICC to India to the two other teams emerge from this with credit or dignity. T20 is set to make its Olympic debut two years from now, a factor lost in the mash of overlapping egos.

If the ICC can't handle their own world championship, how will it fare on the bigger stage?

World cricket might be at an inflexion point. Those elected to serve the game should do so and not look over their shoulders for instructions from their political masters. Now there's a lesson for the actors in this developing drama.

End of the road for the Indians in singles

Sahaja, Shrivalli, Vaishnavi and Maaya fall woefuly short, losing in straight sets in the round-of-32, to leave the faithful ruing the day

MUMBAI OPEN

Tarun Shastry
MUMBAI

It was a sombre day for the Indian contingent at the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) courts on Tuesday, as all four home players bowed out in the round-of-32 in the L&T Mumbai Open 125K series.

Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Vaishnavi Adkar and Maaya Rajeshwaran fell woefully short, leaving the handful of faithful to rue the day's play.

Vaishnavi emerged as the most competitive of the quartet, engaging Austria's Lilli Tagger in prolonged baseline rallies and threading precise groundstrokes off both wings. The 21-year-old Indian showcased depth and consistency, redirecting pace and attempting to dictate rallies from the back of the court.

Easily done: Semenistaja took out Cherubini for the loss of only four games. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Yet, Tagger seized control at pivotal moments, combining superior court coverage with well-timed net-rushing to finish points and pressuring Vaishnavi into errors.

Close affair

The opening set remained tight until the closing stages, when Tagger opened up the court with acute cross-court angles, drawing errors from Vaishnavi and securing a decisive late break to take it 7-5.

In the second, she amplified her aggression, firing punishing aces down the T, mixing crisp forehand volleys with skidding backhand slices, and dictating the rallies from start to finish, before closing out the match with a 6-4 set win.

Later in the day, last year's semifinalist Maaya Rajeshwaran went down 3-6, 2-6 to last season's quarterfinalist, Lanlana Tararudee.

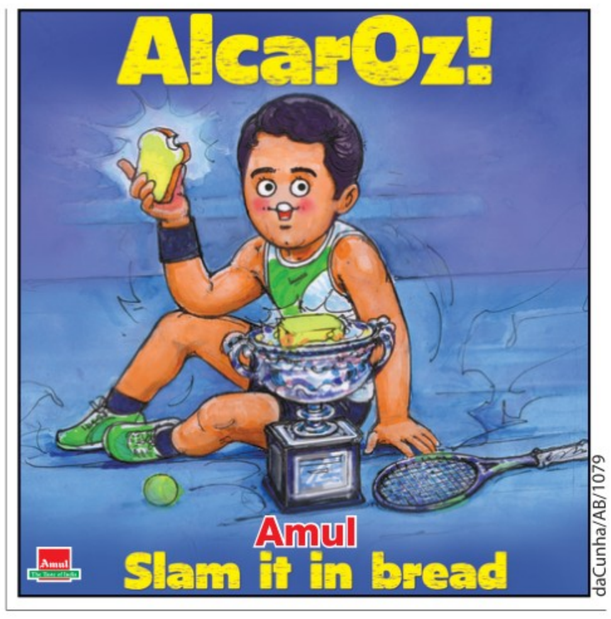
The Thai imposed herself early with depth from the baseline, using heavy top-spin forehands, sharp returns and precise shot placement to repeatedly break Maaya's serve, leaving the Indian with little opportunity to mount a comeback.

Other results:

Darja Semenistaja (Lat) bt Diletta Cherubini (Ita) 6-3, 6-1; Yasmine Kabbaj (Mar) bt Peangtarn Pipuech (Tha) 6-3, 6-3.

Eri Shimizu (Jpn) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli (Ind) 7-5, 6-2; Sohyun Park (Kor) bt Mingge Xu (GBr) 6-1, retd.; Fangran Tian (Chn) bt Rina Saigo (Jpn) 6-0, 6-3.

Kristiana Sidorova bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty (Ind) 6-1, 6-3; Tatiana Prozorova bt Priska Nugroho (Ina) 6-2, 6-1; Hanne Vandewinkel (Bel) bt Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) 6-3, 6-3.



Nepal coach Law doesn't want to settle for mediocrity

T20 WORLD CUP

S. Shrivathsan
CHENNAI

Australia's challenge at the T20 World Cup has just got tougher. The 2021 champion has been handicapped by the late withdrawal of Pat Cummins, a key component of its pace battery. Adding to its woes is the news that Josh Hazlewood, a razor-sharp operator across phases, is unlikely to be available for the early stages of the global tournament.

Stuart Law, former Australia batter and current Nepal head coach, opined that those replacing Cummins and Hazlewood will have big shoes to fill. He, however, backed the Mitchell Marsh-led side to find a quick solution.

"All good things come to an end. There are some players who are reaching the end of their careers and then there are young players who are starting their journeys," Law said after Nepal registered a comfortable win over the UAE in the warm-up contest here on Tuesday.

After being in a race against time to be fit for the T20 World Cup, the 32-year-old Cummins was recently ruled out due to a nagging back issue. His pace partner Hazlewood, 35, has been away from international action since October owing to injury setbacks.

"Cummins is a rare commodity. He is one of the best bowlers the world has seen, particularly in modern-day cricket. Hazlewood is one of the better T20 bowlers going around... the guys in Chennai know it well (he had turned out for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL). But, the Australian team has been very strong for a long time and there is a lot of quality in this team. Cooper Connolly is one young player who has stood out; he has done well in the Big Bash League. Overall, there is a good blend of youth and experience in the squad," added Law, who took over the reins of Nepal in March.

The Australian acknowledged the hardships that the ICC associate members like Nepal endure, but does not want to settle for mediocrity when a big opportunity arises. "We are very aggressive with the way we think. We do not want to be one of the teams that just turn up and play." To Stuart, all are equal before the 'Law'!

Laying down the Law: The former Australian batter wants Nepal to play an aggressive brand of cricket. CRICKET ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL

Tirkey discusses HI's state of affairs with Sports Minister

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The ongoing troubles in Hockey India reached up to the sports ministry with HI president Dilip Tirkey and other office-bearers meeting Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday.

Sources close to the development confirmed that Mandaviya sought all details of the happenings in the sport over the last few months, both on and off the field, indicating his concerns.

The meeting, lasting close to half hour, also covered the future course of action for hockey in general, with special emphasis on the upcoming Asian Games.

While nothing was official, sources admitted that the minister, while expressing support for Hockey India's response to the recent incident involving three players – Manpreet Singh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Dilpreet Singh – made it clear that he expected the federation to take strong, visible action and ensure there was no repetition.

It has also been reliably learnt that the role of coach Craig Fulton, in the entire episode was also discussed.

Tirkey. FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Government of Karnataka
DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LAND TRANSPORT
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER URBAN LAND TRANSPORT
BMTC, TTMC 'B' Block, (Above Bus Stand), 4th Floor, K.H.Road,
Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Ph : 080-22226627 / 6628, Fax : 080-22226630,
E-Mail : dultbangalore@gmail.com, dult@karnataka.gov.in W: https://dult.karnataka.gov.in
No:DULT-TECH/59/2025 Dated 03.02.2026

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS

This is to bring to the notice of all concerned that the notification published in newspaper on 31.12.2025 with respect to the tender for reputed consultancy service providers for the service of Preparation of a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for Seven (7) District Headquarters of Karnataka, last date for submitting bid has been extended to **27.02.2026 at 5:30pm.** The bidders may download the tender documents from the Government of Karnataka website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Package No.	District Headquarter	Tender No.
1	Madikeri	DULT/2025-26/SE0032
	Chamarajanagar	
	Chikkaballapur	
2	Haveri	DULT/2025-26/SE0033
	Karwar	
3	Koppal	DULT/2025-26/SE0034
	Yadgir	

Sd/- Joint Director (Admin)
Directorate of Urban Land Transport
Urban Development Department
DIPR/CP/5385/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

BEFORE THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT AT BANGALORE
R.P. No. 38/2024

BETWEEN: Keshavareddy and others ... **APPELLANTS**
AND: The Asst. Commissioner and Others ... **RESPONDENTS**

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No.3

PRAKASH REDDY, S/o late Srinivasa Reddy, aged about 62 years, Residing at Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District

Whereas the Appellants have filed the above appeal for Set-aside of MR No: T9/2021-22 dated 06.09.2021 and seeking the direction by this Hon'ble Court to Direct the Tahsildar, Anekal Taluk Bangalore urban to effect the Katha of the schedule property in favor of the legal representatives of late. Srinivasareddy and further to modify the order dated: 06.09.2021 in R.A(A) 155/2021 against you.

Take Notice that you, the Respondent No.3 in the above appeal is hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on **24/02/2026** at **3:00 P.M** either in person or through an advocate failing which the case will be heard and decided ex-parte in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the land bearing Survey No. 155/5 measuring 0-11½ guntas of Kudlu village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 30/01/2026

By order of the Court, Special Deputy Commissioner-2, Bengaluru North Sub-Division, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka State

M.V. BALARAJ, Advocate
No. BG-3, #26/2, Ground Floor, Brigade Majestic, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru 560009. Mob-9845301145.
Mail: balaraj77@gmail.com

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
6th, 7th & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre,
Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Petition No. 886/TL/2025 **Dated: 2.2.2026**

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Sections 14 and 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by **Vindhyachal Varanasi Transmission Limited**, B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi – 110016 to establish the Inter-State transmission system for "Inter-regional (NR-WR) Transmission System strengthening to relieve the loading of 765 kV Vindhyachal-Varanasi D/c line" (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer Basis consisting of the following elements:

Sl. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD	Element(s) which are pre-required for declaring the Commercial Operation (COD) of the respective element
1.	Establishment of 765 kV Prayagraj S/s near Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) along with 2x330 MVAr 765 kV Bus reactors. • 765 kV, 330 MVAr Bus Reactor: 2 Nos. (7x110 MVAr, including one spare unit) • 765 kV Bus Reactor bays: 2 Nos. • 765 kV Line bays: 6 Nos. (for LILO of 765 kV Fatehpur-Sasaram S/C line, LILO of 765 kV Fatehpur – Varanasi S/C line and Vindhaychal Pool-Prayagraj 765 kV D/C line) **Future provisions:** **Space for** • 765/400 kV ICTs along with bays- 4 Nos. • 765 kV line bays along with switchable line reactors – 8 Nos. • 765 kV Bus Reactor along with bay: 1 No. • 400 kV line bays along with switchable line reactor: 4 Nos. • 400 kV line bays: 2 Nos. • 400 kV Bus Reactor along with bays: 2 Nos. • 400 kV Sectionalization bay: 1 set	24 months (16.10.2027)	All elements of scheme are required to be commissioned simultaneously as their utilization is dependent on each other.
2.	LILO of 765 kV Fatehpur–Varanasi S/C line at Prayagraj.		
3.	LILO of 765 kV Fatehpur–Sasaram S/C line at Prayagraj.		
4.	765 kV Vindhyachal Pool – Prayagraj D/C line along with 330 MVAr line reactor (switchable) at Prayagraj end on each circuit of 765 kV Vindhyachal Pool - Prayagraj D/C line • 765 kV, 330 MVAr switchable line reactors at Prayagraj end: 2 Nos. • Switching equipment for 765 kV 330 MVAr switchable line reactors at Prayagraj S/s: 2 Nos		
5.	Bypassing of both circuits of 765 kV Sasan – Vindhyachal Pool 2xS/C line at Vindhyachal Pool and connecting it with 765 kV Vindhyachal Pool - Prayagraj D/C line, thus forming 765 kV Sasan - Prayagraj D/C line		

2. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited, vide its letter dated 3.11.2025, has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
3. Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 31.1.2026 in Petition No. 886/TL/2025, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for the establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
4. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to **Vindhyachal Varanasi Transmission Limited**, before the Commission can be accessed at the www.powergrid.in/subsidiaries or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
5. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by **14.2.2026** at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
6. The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on **17.2.2026**. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga
Sub-Division, Chitradurga VP Extension Opp. to Udaya Nursing Home, Chitradurga 577501 Office Mail: acfchitradurga@gmail.com Office Phone: 08194-230402
No: A2/BGT/TENDER/CR-01/2025-26 Date: 04.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

As per the Office Notification No: :A2/BGT/Tender/CR-01/2025-26 Dated: 03.02.2026 of Assistant Conservator of Forests Chitradurga Sub-Division, Chitradurga tenders have been called for Fresh works under CAMPA for Rs 108.07 Lakhs in Chitradurga of Chitradurga Forest Division for the year 2025-26. Tenders are invited in Two Cover (Technical and Financial) mode in the prescribed format for Advance Work and 03.02.2026 tender is 12.02.2026 up to 4.00 PM. Tender details can be obtained through the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Further details can be obtained from the said office during office hours.

RO.No.646:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Sub-Division, Chitradurga**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-26/1621/2025-26 **Date: 03.02.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: Providing Over Head Height Barrier at Various Locations at Kadechur Badiyal Industrial Area, Yadgiri District. (2nd Call).

● Last Date for submission of Bids: **17.02.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-04/1622/2025-26 **Date: 03.02.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-

Name of the works: 1) Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Scientific Disposal of Industrial Solid Waste by Integrated Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Alternate Fuel Raw Material Facility (AFR) including survey analysis, qualitative & quantitative study, design of MRF & ARF facility etc., at plot no.311 to 314, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District. (2nd Call). 2) Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for proposed external water supply scheme to Ittangihal, Arekere, Tidagundi Industrial Areas and surveying, Demarcation of boundary for the work of formation of Industrial layout for the proposed Tidagundi Village, Vijayapur Taluk & District. (Extent 1203A.06G)

● Last Date for submission of Bids: **18.02.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5404/CCL/2025-26 **Chief Engineer-2, KIADB, Bengaluru**

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shimoga Division, Shimoga
No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-51/2025-26 Dtd: 30-01-2026

Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-2 above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

All Contractors 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP

1. Hosanagara taluk 1 Work (I.No:32563)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates :

Date:31-01-2026 to 16-02-2026 (Work Completion 11 Months (Including Mansoon). If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only

Sd/-EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/11/02/1748

Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department
Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/5018 **Dated: 31.01.2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-1,2 on E-procurement portal for 18 no of works pertaining to Koppal , Raichur district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from **Rs. 10.00 to 65.00 Lakhs.** The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **04-02-2026.** Last date & time for receipt of tender is **17-02-2026 time 17.30 hours,** Pre bid meeting will be held on **09-02-2026 11.00 Hours** at Division office koppal. date & time for opening of technical bid **19-02-2026 time 11.00 hours,** date and time for opening of financial bid **21-02-2026 time 11.00 hours** (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/652/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

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India Rank - 7

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